



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Goodbye Bell Market, Hello Whole Foods

By Corrie M. Anders

Bell Market, a Noe Valley grocery store that opened in an era when meat-and-potatoes was standard fare, closes its doors permanently this month, giving way to the gourmet grocery Whole Foods Market.

The end comes Feb. 14—exactly four decades after Dominick Bell and two of his brothers began selling vegetables, meats, and other groceries at their self-named supermarket at 3950 24th Street.

Whole Foods won't open immediately at the Bell location. That's because the new operators say they must first renovate the building, to transform the aging structure into a contemporary showcase for their unique blend of organic, locally grown foods and preservative-free products.

The \$5 million remodeling project will take five to six months, so the earliest Whole Foods could open appears to be August. During the lull, Noe Valley residents who need a full-service grocery store may be forced to travel outside the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, several local businesses are expanding their product lines to fill the void. And since December, Supervisor Bevan Dufty and community leaders have been exploring ways to supply groceries to seniors and disabled residents who have relied on Bell's proximity. (See "Small Groceries" at right.)

Eager Anticipation

This latest link in Whole Foods' national chain of upscale stores has been a source of eager anticipation among many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

John Corey Takes Harry Aleo and His Horse on the Film Circuit

By Olivia Boler

Harry Aleo, a pillar of the Noe Valley community, passed away last June, but not much has changed in his Twin Peaks Properties storefront on 24th Street. The handwritten poster proclaiming "Looney Valley, home of the latte-sipping liberals" is still front and center, as are reverential photos of Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. One difference, however, is a poster and TV set promoting a new movie about Aleo and his famous racehorse, Lost in the Fog.

The film, which shares the horse's name, was directed by John Corey, a 41-year-old Noe Valley native who lives with his wife and three boys in the same house he grew up in on Elizabeth Street. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, Corey, like many Noe Valleyans, passed by



When Bell Market closes Feb. 14, shoppers will be turning to neighborhood alternatives, such as the popular Church Produce at 30th and Church streets.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Small Groceries Work to Fill Your Bags

By Corrie M. Anders

Convenience and variety may be wanting, and prices may be higher, but Noe Valley residents will still be able to find groceries in the neighborhood during the expected six-month wait for

Whole Foods to remodel Bell Market. (See story at left.)

Several corner stores, delis, and specialty shops in Noe Valley are busy stocking up or expanding delivery ser-

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Obama Icon Raises the Ire of Local Pastor

By Corrie M. Anders

Millions of Americans may view Barack Obama as a savior, but his saintly image on a giant prayer candle in a Noe Valley gift shop window has drawn the wrath of a prominent Catholic priest.

Father Tony LaTorre, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church, last month urged parishioners to boycott Just for Fun, a 24th Street store that has been selling the candles since December.

LaTorre claimed that owners of the store, whom he erroneously identified as Jewish, for years have been selling merchandise items that "mock and ridicule" the faith of Catholics and other Christians.

"And now for the last couple of weeks, in their front window, they have President Obama displayed with many of our devotional items in a very negative way, which again is considered to be mocking the Catholic faith," LaTorre wrote to his parishioners in a weekly church bulletin distributed in late January.

"I am urging all you Catholics, for a change, to stand up for your faith and stay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Local Women Authors Dish on Life, Love, and Sex In Their 40s

By Lorraine Sanders

Noe Street resident Diane Perro doesn't make New Year's resolutions. Instead, she makes declarations. There was, for example, the Year of Cleavage, a 12-month span dedicated to showing off the aforementioned whenever and wherever possible (and, of course, appropriate).

During the Year of Being Good to Myself, Perro tempered her demanding professional life as a high-tech executive with monthly massages, regular mani-pedi sessions, and a three-week bike trip

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Harry Aleo and Noe Valley John Corey (right) became friends during the making of *Lost in the Fog*, a documentary about Aleo and his famous racehorse.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

Aleo's storefront "every day, first grinning, then eventually laughing at the grouchy signs in the windows." In those days, Corey ran the KPIX Channel 5 tele-

vision show *Evening Magazine*, and also produced some of its pieces. Always on

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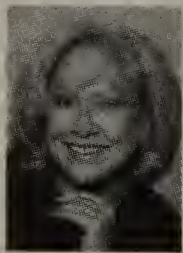
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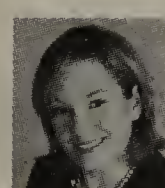
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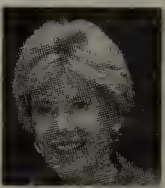
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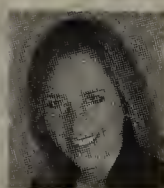
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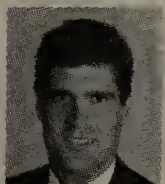
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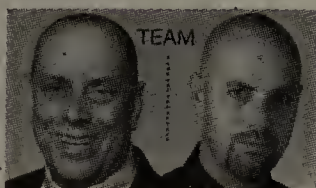
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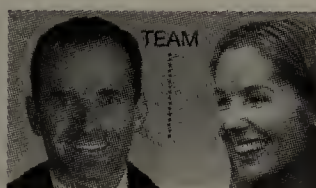
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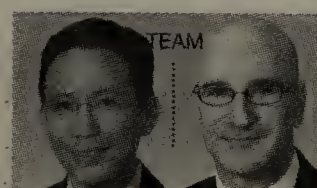
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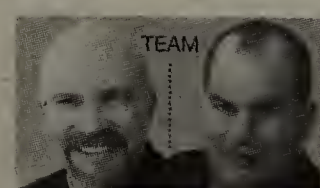
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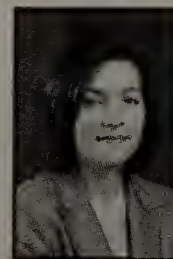
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LETTERS 42¢

Neighborhood Dims Without Streetlight

Editor:

I am still in shock over the grim news that Streetlight Records is closing in Noe Valley. [Jan. 31 was set to be the store's last day.] Twenty-fourth Street will be a diminished place, and the neighborhood will be a less attractive place to live.

I've been buying vinyl records, tapes, and CDs at Streetlight for nearly 30 years, and it's always been a wonderful place to walk into. The staff is knowledgeable about music and invariably helpful. For a relatively small store, the supply and range of music was always impressive.

It reminds me of the music-store and staff in Nick Hornby's great little book (and John Cusack movie) *High Fidelity*.

I know the record industry and changing consumer habits may have doomed independent music stores, but honestly,

it's like losing another fine bookstore or closing a library.

Cyberspace and iTunes may sometimes be more convenient, but they'll never be as warm and human and enchanting as a great little record store.

Steve Talbot
Kearny Street

Clues to Bookstore's Trade-Ins

Editor, and mystery fans in Noe Valley:

In this rotten economy, which has affected us all, the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore has been inundated with trade-ins. Since used books are a large portion of the inventory, we welcome trade-ins. But we'd like to make life easier for those of you who are planning to bring books in for trade.

Our international section seems to be sparse, so we can always use books from authors with an international bent. Here is a partial list: Cara Black, Andrea Camilleri, David Hewson, Donna Leon, Henning Mankell, Magdalen Nabb, Håkan Nesser, and Helene Tursten. We only need paperbacks.

A year ago or so, we set up a section of books from the UK, and we like to keep it well stocked. So anything from across the pond is welcome, *except for* Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, or John Creasey (or his pseudonym, J.J. Marric). Again only paperbacks, unless they are published in the UK and have not yet been published nor ever will be published here.

We are always looking for interesting historical mysteries, so bring them on in, except for books by Anne Perry or Elizabeth Peters.

This store has been around a long time (almost 35 years), and so have many authors! Therefore, there are many authors who are very well-known and very popular, and we already have many copies of their books. These authors include J.A. Jance, James Patterson, Richard North Patterson, Sue Grafton, Robert Parker, Joan Hess, Tony Hillerman, Mary Higgins Clark and her various relatives who write, Lilian Jackson Braun, Alex Kava, Iris Johansen, Alex Kava, Linda Howard, and Lisa Gardner.

If you would like to ask about a specific author, just e-mail or give us a call.

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Bons Mots for Crossword Puzzle

Editor:

I just want to say that I love the crossword puzzles! Please keep them coming.
Renee Schaible

See page 17 for Michael Blake's latest crossword challenge: "One 'Smooth' Operator."



Blake Egoian (left), shown with dad Jim Egoian and brother Cole.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

In Memory of Blake Egoian

We are saddened beyond measure by the loss of a member of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market community, Blake Egoian, the elder son of Jim and Carol Egoian, of Twin Girls Farm. Blake died on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008, in a car accident in Reedley, Calif. He was 17 years old.

Blake was a regular presence at the market and had only been absent that Saturday because he had been attending a viewing of another classmate, who also, stunningly, had been killed five days earlier in a car accident. Along with helping his family run the stand, Blake performed cleanup for the market. He was a kind, friendly, and hard-working young man, a loving brother and son.

Blake's death stunned attendees of the market, who have come to know the Egoian family as, well, family. The Egoians' warmth and generosity have touched those who have been fortunate enough to know them. Dozens upon dozens of people cried openly at the market and sent cards to the Egoians, a testament to how profoundly Jim and Carol, Blake and his brother Cole, and sisters Tisha and Whitney have become part of our lives.

Blake, we miss you.

From all of us at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be sent to the Blake Egoian Scholarship Fund, Bank of the Sierra, 1095 W. Manning Avenue, Reedley, CA 93654. Condolence notes can be sent to the Egoian Family, 23034 East Dinuba Avenue, Dinuba, CA 93618.



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Castro Street resident Hilary Roberts sent us a free offer her grandmother had preserved for more than 80 years.

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Editor:

My grandmother grew up, until the age of 6, at 1376 Church Street, between 26th and Army (Cesar Chavez) streets. She lived there from 1919 to 1925. Then the family moved to the Sunset.

She's down on the Peninsula now, but I was recently helping her go through some old papers and came upon a little piece of Noe Valley history: an ad for Hoffmann Brothers grocery store (see above). My favorite parts are the old phone number and the line "Don't take time from your household or other social duties to select and carry home your own groceries."

Based on the dates my grandmother

lived in the area and the trademark stamp at the top, which says "23," I'd guess the ad is from about 1923 or 1924. The grocery was located where Happy Donuts is now, at the corner of 24th and Church.

Hilary Roberts
Castro Street

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. E-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Notary Public Service

Dave Cannata Shared His Many 'Hidden' Talents

By Steve Steinberg

Dave Cannata, a longtime resident and co-owner of the Hidden Cottage bed and breakfast on Noe Street, died on Nov. 26, 2008. Cannata, who was 60, had been waging "a courageous battle" with cancer, his wife Ginger Karels-Cannata said.

David James Cannata was born in "Butchertown" (now known as the Bayview), a member of a close-knit Italian family. When he was a teenager, the family moved across town to the Portola District. Dave attended Polytechnic High School, once located near the site of Kezar Stadium, and later went on to study at San Francisco City College.

Ginger said he loved restoring old houses and was a specialist in hardwood flooring and painting. He and his best friend from childhood, Robert Duenas, owned the Earthquake City Painting Company in the early 1980s.

Dave and Ginger met when they were neighbors in Glen Park. They married in 1980 and had two children, Jason and Jessica, now 24 and 26. The couple moved to their Victorian home at 1186 Noe Street in 1979, and in 1995 the Cannatas turned the quaint farmhouse into a bed and breakfast. Hidden Cottage soon became

a local landmark, noted for its peaked roof with antique weather vane, and red flowering bougainvillea. As the years went by, the two proprietors continued to live there, as well as take in guests.

According to Ginger, Dave never tired of improving the property. "He loved maintaining the old Victorian and was forever making it nicer," she said.

He also bought another Victorian on Elizabeth Street and fixed that one up as a B&B with three interior "cottages," called Island, Summer, and Cecilia.

Cannata loved Noe Valley, Ginger said, and was always walking to Tuggey's, the hardware store on 24th Street, to buy materials for his various building projects or to have coffee with friends. He also was a member of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

Semi-retired over the last few years, Cannata kept busy installing windows and doors for neighbors on Noe Street.

The family spent their summers in Hawaii, where Dave taught his children to surf, sail, and camp. His kids were everything to him, Ginger said, but "he was not one to spoil them." Dave also refurbished houses that he had purchased in Hawaii.

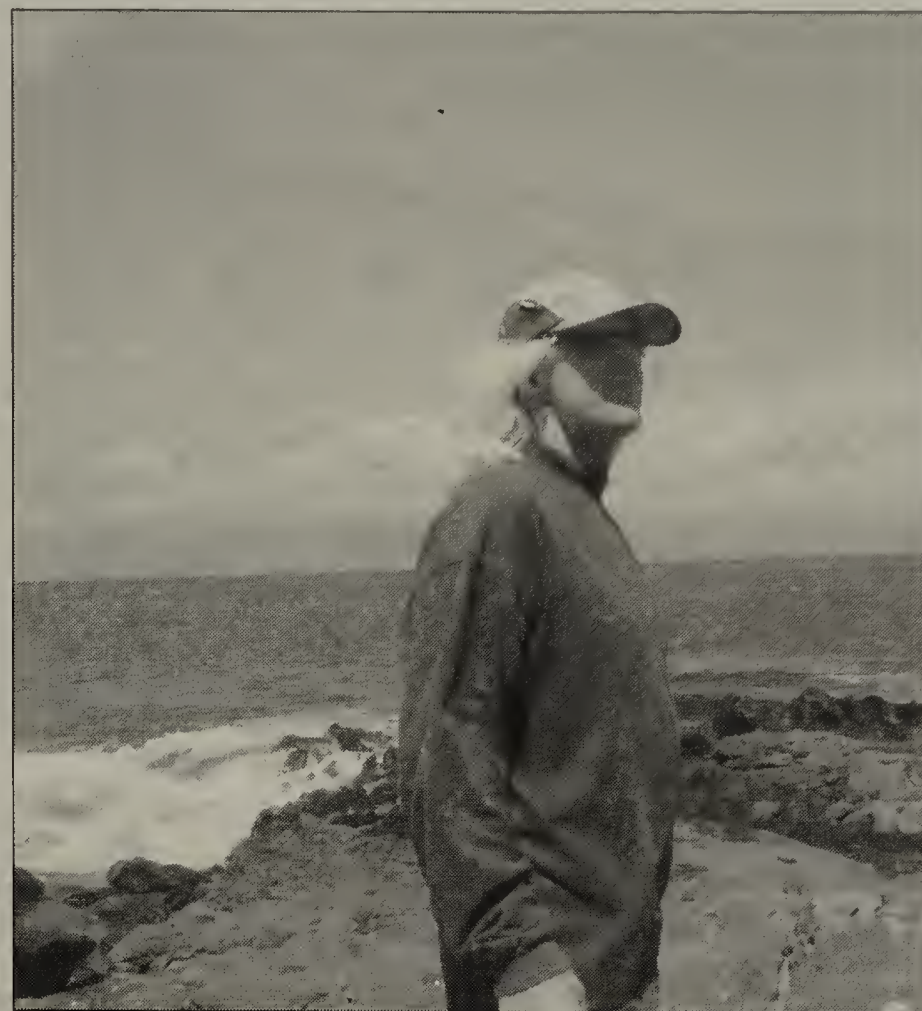
Ginger remembers her husband as a man of "great determination, strength, and enthusiasm for life," who also loved to tell stories. "He was a wonderful man," she said, "a true San Francisco character, who could turn the simplest task into a fun adventure and then tell a hilarious story about it.

"He died too young," she adds, "and

will be greatly missed by family and friends."

Funeral services were held for Dave on Nov. 29 at St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street. He is survived by his wife,

children, brother Carl Cannata, and many other relatives and friends. The family asks that contributions be made in David Cannata's name to the American Cancer Society.



A man who always enjoyed life, Dave Cannata in his later years divided his time between his two favorite places: Noe Valley and Hawaii.

Photo courtesy Karels-Cannata family

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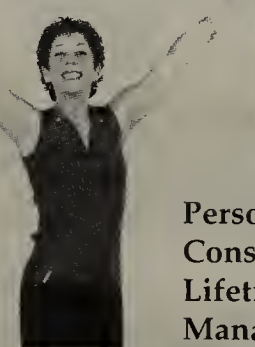
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Whole Foods Plans a Six-Month Remodel at Bell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Noe Valley residents and merchants.

"I'm really excited," said 24th Street resident Azia Yenne Bolos, married mother of three children. "I think it's going to be nice to have a really nice grocery store in the neighborhood. You'll feel proud to come in and get food to serve to your family, friends, and neighbors."

"It will be excellent for the neighborhood and great for nearby retail," agreed Heather Bruchs, who owns Urban Nest, a gift store on 24th near Sanchez, across from Bell. "I'm very excited for them to come in."

But Whole Foods' well-known reputation for top-shelf goods also has caused anxiety among budget-conscious locals.

Several neighborhood groups hosted meetings with representatives from Whole Foods during December and January. Another community meeting is planned for Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., at St. Philip's Church.

"People expressed a desire to get the store opened as soon as possible. To have that store empty is going to be tough for people," said Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association, the community benefit district on 24th Street.

The groups also pushed Whole Foods "to avoid competition with surrounding merchants," said Gwen Sanderson, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

"In the meeting we had [which was joined by Friends of Noe Valley], we left with zero concerns about the project, which is really rare," said Sanderson.

Duffy Greases the Pan

Getting Whole Foods open as quickly as possible has been a primary focus, considering what happened after the Real Food Company abruptly shut down in August 2003. The loss of foot traffic to and from Real Food—which has never reopened—hurt many businesses along the 24th Street commercial corridor.

Duffy said he was closely monitoring the permit process for Whole Foods, to watch for any bureaucratic problems that could delay construction.

"My goal is that the market be open no later than Sept 1. If they can gain any time, that will be great," said Duffy. "It's in Whole Foods' interest to open quickly and in the city's interest to have that market there and not cause a negative impact on businesses and the community," Duffy said.

The Austin-based retail chain already has three stores across San Francisco. In addition to the Noe Valley location, Whole Foods is trying to open an outlet on Stanyan Street in the Haight and recently signed an agreement to establish a market at the recently vacated S&C Ford dealership at Market and Dolores streets.

"My district will go from zero to possibly two Whole Foods in the next couple of years," said Duffy.

New Store Half the Normal Size

Whole Foods submitted its first round of Noe Valley permit requests to City Hall on Dec. 11. The city planning commission will hold what is expected to be a routine public hearing Feb. 19 on the firm's request for a "conditional use" permit to operate a grocery on the site.

After closing to the public in mid-February, Bell will spend the next two weeks removing stock and equipment and checking for any hazardous materials on the premises. Bell officially ends its long-



After 40 years on 24th Street, Bell Market is closing Feb. 14 to make way for the upscale Whole Foods Market. If all goes smoothly, the new operators will renovate the store and move in by late summer or early fall.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Whole Foods, Unprocessed

The public will have at least two opportunities this month to learn more about Whole Foods' plans to replace Bell Market on 24th Street.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, the Noe Valley Democratic Club will hold a town hall that will include a discussion of Bell and Whole Foods. Among the panelists are Glen Moon of Whole Foods, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, and Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association.

The 7:30 p.m. meeting will be held at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., between Elizabeth and 24th streets.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, the San Francisco Planning Commission agenda includes Whole Foods' request for a "conditional use" permit. The hearing starts at 1:30 p.m. in Room 400 at City Hall.

term rental agreement with the property's owner Feb. 28, and Whole Foods will take over the next day with a 20-year lease.

"It will be gutted out to bare bones, and we'll go back in and put in a smaller version of a Whole Foods," said company representative Glen Moon, who is vice president in charge of business development. Bathrooms also will be upgraded during the renovation, and the store will be designed to accommodate disabled shoppers.

Because the 18,000-square-foot facility contains less than half the space usually found in a Whole Foods store, Moon said the 24th Street facility would not carry clothing or host a full-service, sit-down café as it does at many of the chain's larger groceries.

"They're just going to have food," Sanderson corroborated. "Most of their stores have clothing and kitchenwares and all kinds of other products. This store is too small to have that."

Moon added that the store's space limitation "works to their advantage," referring to Noe Valley boutiques that might offer similar products to Whole Foods' larger stores.

Cheese Company, Drewes Worried

Still, the owners of the 24th Street Cheese Company and Drewes Brothers Meats on Church Street were less than sanguine about the presence of Whole Foods on their turf.

"I don't think it's good news for me. It's bad news," said cheese shop owner

Charles Kung, whose store carries 300 different kinds of imported and domestic cheeses. Whole Foods, he said, will offer many of the same selections only a block from his location near Sanchez.

"No matter what, we cannot compete with a big store like Whole Foods... with many of their prices and the deals they're getting [from wholesale distributors]. They can easily drive us out of business. It will be very, very hard. I'm not optimistic."

"I'm definitely worried," said Josh Eppe, whose refrigerated display cases were stocked recently with free-range chicken, fresh fish, beef, and sausages. "When I heard that they were going in, I said, 'Oh boy.'"

Eppe said, "[Whole Foods] was my competitor when they weren't up the street."

And in the current weak economy, the store's close proximity to his butcher shop might be the death knell that says "we can't do it anymore."

"I wish Bell were staying," said Eppe.

Some Will Miss Bell

Liberty Street resident Robert Brust echoed that statement, saying he felt the store offered good products at reasonable prices.

"I like Bell Market. I think people are going to miss it," Brust said, while plunking three bags of groceries into the flatbed of his pickup truck in Bell's parking lot.

Brust said he would probably switch his allegiance to DeLano's IGA Market on 18th Street in the Castro rather than shop at Whole Foods. "I'm a professional chef and I'm not easily won over by Whole Foods," he said. "They're not the beginning and the end in terms of food."

Besides, said Brust, "I'm watching my pennies."

Mercedes Marengo, 88, said she would miss the convenience and community Bell Market provides. A resident of 25th Street for 53 years, Marengo has been shopping at Bell since it opened. She vividly remembers when she could purchase 10 pounds of pears for \$1.

Several times a week, Marengo would make the two-block walk to 24th Street to visit with friends and merchants at the drugstore and the bank, and then pick up groceries at Bell.

"There was always a sense of community, and Bell was a part of that," said Marengo's daughter, Elizabeth Marengo. "It's sad that it's not going to be there."

Another neighbor, Despina Kokalis, said Bell has been her supermarket of choice for most of the 48 years she's lived on 25th Street. Since she doesn't drive, the 83-year-old resident walks to Bell, often returning home with her shopping cart.

"It's the best store. It's very nice," she said in a heavy Greek accent. "I'm very sorry that it's closing. Now I don't know what I will do."

Sad Farewell to Employees

The final day, Feb. 14, also will be a poignant farewell for Bell's 26 employees, including one who has been with the company for nearly four decades. Nine others have served Noe residents for at least two to three decades.

Organizers of the weekly Noe Valley Farmers' Market plan a public salute to the grocery workers with a bon voyage cake and brief ceremony on Feb. 7. The tribute takes place at 11 a.m. during the market's regular Saturday market at 24th and Vicksburg.

"These are people we have seen for one, two, and three decades. They're part of our lives," said Leslie Crawford, a charter founder of the five-year-old Farmers' Market. "We want to say thank you for so many years of service to the neighborhood."

Not all Bell's employees will lose their jobs once the store closes, according to Michael Sharpe, president of the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union, Local 648.

"We have a collective bargaining agreement that says the company is obliged to take the most senior employees and place them in survivor stores," he said.

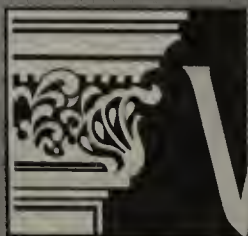
Those longer-tenured employees will transfer to Kroger's Cala Foods store at California and Hyde streets, according to Sharpe, who said it was not clear immediately how many workers that would include.

As for the rest, Sharpe said the union would "do our best to find work for them in San Francisco," and "if they live outside San Francisco, to reach out to those local unions" for help.

Moon said Whole Foods plans to employ between 80 and 100 workers at the 24th Street store. Bell employees are welcome to apply at Whole Foods, but he said the company had "no agreement to take them on."

Bell Supermarkets have been a part of San Francisco history since the Bell brothers launched their business in the 1940s. They expanded to Noe Valley in 1968. A series of mergers left Bell and Cala stores in the hands of first Ralphs Supermarket, then Kroger, a national grocery retailer based in Cincinnati.

Bell's fate in Noe Valley was sealed in 2005 when Kroger shifted its business strategy and began paring its Bay Area holdings. Mollie Stone, DeLano's IGA supermarkets, and other groceries considered the Bell site before Whole Foods landed the location.



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Groceries, Delis at Your Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vices, in hopes of enticing Bell's former customers. In addition, neighborhood groups are cooking up ideas, such as adding an extra day to the farmers' market on 24th Street or running a shuttle to nearby supermarkets.

Two well-known Noe Valley businesses already have taken steps to fill the gap after Bell Market ceases operations Feb. 15.

"That's one of the reasons we've upgraded our store and changed equipment," said George Sepetis, owner of Church Produce at Church and 30th streets.

Sepetis said he plans to provide more organic fruits and vegetables and widen the range of imported cheeses. The new items will complement the fresh breads, organic cereals, canned goods, and small deli section that Sepetis already offers.

Shufat Goes Organic

Likewise, Shufat Market said it plans to add organic milk, cheese, and fruit to its inventory at 3807 24th Street near Church Street.

"Everybody now is into organic stuff," said James Abu-Nie, who owns the convenience grocery.

Abu-Nie said he'll also update and enlarge Shufat's deli service to include kosher sandwiches and other "kosher stuff for the Jewish community."

Abu-Nie said he expects to spend February bringing in new vegetable coolers and setting up the enlarged operation, and to have it in full swing for customers starting in early March.

Chuck Rafidi, who owns Chuck's Sun Valley Dairy at 28th and Church, said he already has a "good variety of things" at

his convenience market.

"Maybe I'll just increase the amount of orders to keep up with increased demand," Rafidi said. He added that "if people request things, I'll try to get them."

Italian Delis Making Meals

Two Diamond Street operations that provide a wide array of Italian and American deli foods said they are prepared to handle an influx of new customers.

"We're probably going to be doubling our orders for Acme and Grace breads. And we may have to up our orders for coffee and crackers," said Gene Ginsberg, who with his wife Joanie Basso-Ginsberg owns PastaGina at 741 Diamond Street.

Ginsberg said patrons can go home with any of eight types of freshly home-made pastas, 20 different sauces, eight chicken dishes, and a dozen kinds of organic and other salads.

"If they're frustrated [without Bell], we want them to know they can get everything they need for a meal," he said. "It doesn't matter if it's for four people or eight people, if they can boil water, they can make a meal at PastaGina."

A few doors away, co-owners Danny Forchione and Tom Di Serio said they can easily accommodate an increase in traffic at Andiamo Gourmet Deli, their Italian-style store at 649 Diamond Street.

Forchione, who learned to cook at his grandmother's apron, daily prepares a variety of dishes that run from lasagna and rigatoni to meatball or sausage sandwiches.

"They can get better sandwiches here than at Bell," he promised.

Ask About Home Delivery

Shufat Market plans to expand the free delivery service it now offers to longtime customers, mostly seniors,

who make at least a \$15 purchase. The store will deliver to any customers in Noe Valley who meet the minimum purchase requirement.

Drewes Brothers Meats recently expanded its offerings to include products such as mustards and marinades, as well as wine and beer. Now, owner Josh Epple said he too is pondering beefing up home delivery service.

"We offer delivery for a select few," such as the "elderly who can't get out," Epple said. Broadening deliveries might help Drewes draw in shoppers "who normally would have gone to Bell."

Epple noted that shoppers sometimes can't easily find parking near his Church Street store, and home delivery would be "a nice option to have."

Supermarket Shuttle Proposed

With only a few stores offering such services, Supervisor Bevan Dufty and others have called on Whole Foods and a Castro District supermarket to consider setting up a shuttle service while Noe Valley is without a full-service grocery.

He said vans could take shoppers to

Whole Foods' Potrero Hill store at 450 Rhode Island Street less than two miles from Noe Valley, or to DeLano's IGA Market, the former Cala Market, at 4201 18th Street. No decisions had been reached in late January.

Midweek Farmers' Market?

Noe Valley's acclaimed Farmers' Market, which sells organic fruits and vegetables on Saturdays each week, is "looking into the possibility of running a midweek market" until Whole Foods opens, says 24th Street resident Leslie Crawford, one of the market's organizers.

Crawford said a scaled-down Tuesday or Wednesday operation, which would run from 3 to 7 p.m., is under consideration.

However, there are no plans to add to the 17 vendors who sell their goods at the Saturday market, which runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 3861 24th Street, between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

"We're really packed at the market, and we can't add any more vendors," said Crawford. ■

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Priest Publicly Chastises Gift Shop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out of 'Just for Fun,'" he wrote. "But be sure to poke your head in the store and tell them why."

The harsh condemnation stunned David Eiland and Robert Ramsey, co-owners of the 22-year-old store.

"I'm not angry. I'm just flabbergasted," Eiland said. "He's done this before, and I think it's mean-spirited and bizarre, frankly."

Eiland said he has no plans to remove the window display or stop selling the candles at the store, located at 3982 24th Street less than three blocks from St. Philip's at 725 Diamond Street.

"Let's not make too much of this. It's a candle of hope, I guess. It's funny and people like it. It's a novelty item, and I'm not going to read too much into it," Eiland said.

Halo on His Head

The candle, which comes in two sizes, one 28 inches tall, depicts Obama wearing a white clerical collar, brown frock, and a heavy rosary dangling below the waist. A halo shines above his head, and he clutches a crucifix in one hand and a staff in the other.

The image, made by a local graphic designer, was created by digitally morphing Obama's face onto a traditional statue of St. Martin de Porres, a 16th-century friar who is revered as one of the first black saints in the Americas.

Eiland said the 12-inch Obama candle was the store's bestselling item over the December holiday season. Buyers took home more than 650 of the smaller candles at \$14.95 each. The larger candle has a price tag of \$395.

"It certainly saved our sales at Christmas, let me tell you," he said. "We're talking thousands and thousands of dollars in sales in a time that was very bad."

Interviewed less than a week after the printing of the bulletin, LaTorre said he had gotten a "very positive" response to his message, adding that parishioners were "very, very appreciative of the fact that it was brought to people's attention."

On the other hand, Eiland said the store

during that same week had seen a constant stream of St. Philip's church members, "who said we don't agree with it and we're so sorry."

Not a Joke in Pastor's Eyes

Father LaTorre, who came to St. Philip's from St. Charles Church in San Carlos in July 2004, defended his public stand.

He said he found "it hard to take in a family-oriented neighborhood that people have to walk by and look at this large religious candle. Some people might think it's cute and a joke. Maybe they look at it and have a chuckle, but Catholics say it doesn't make any sense to them," LaTorre said. "It's offensive and it's hurtful."

While "Catholics are joked about and made fun of," LaTorre continued, he doubted people would appreciate the image of Obama holding a menorah or a statue of a Buddha wearing rosary beads.

"And Barack Obama is not even Catholic, and he's got a rosary around his neck," LaTorre said. He stressed that his complaint was "not a political statement"

Here is the text of Father Tony LaTorre's appeal to St. Philip's parishioners in a church newsletter, published in late January.

JUST FOR FUN? HARDLY!

For a year now, I have not shopped at the general merchandise store called "Just for Fun" on 24th Street because of the anti-Catholic, anti-Christian merchandise they sell. In fact, I am rather appalled that in such a family-oriented neighborhood any retailer would be so bigoted and so hateful to carry such merchandise just to "make a buck." They carry merchandise that depicts our beloved saints in not so saintly ways. They sell "Jesus" merchandise that mocks Jesus (and let me remind you that Jesus is the Son of God, the Creator of all, Jews and Gentiles alike).

And now for the last couple of weeks, in their front window, they have President Obama displayed with many of our devotional items in a very negative way, which again is considered to be mocking the Catholic faith.

I am sorry the owner of this store, who happens to be Jewish, feels the need to mock and ridicule the Catholic/Christian faith. I am urging all you Catholics, for a change, to stand up for your faith and stay out of "Just for Fun." But be sure to poke your head in the store and tell them why. It is time that our faith, our beliefs, and our Lord are respected.

—Father Tony



An Obama devotional candle, made by artist Johnny Oliver, was the centerpiece of an inaugural window display at Just for Fun in January.

Photo by Sally Smith

against Obama, pointing out that "I voted for him."

In his bulletin, LaTorre singled out Just for Fun as a Jewish-owned store. He later recanted, saying that he had gotten misinformation.

LaTorre explained, "The only point I was making there" was that "if I were to put up a statue of Moses and make some comments about that, that would certainly be unacceptable, and I'd have everyone on my neck."

But then he added, "It's a very popular Jewish store, and here they can provide right here in the front window the religious symbols of another faith and get away with it."

Store Has Rabbis and Nuns

The store owners say LaTorre is wrong about their religious affiliation—but what does it matter anyway? They're running a gift shop.

Ramsey said he was raised as a Baptist. Eiland said he is the son of a Jewish father and a mother who was a Methodist-Lutheran. In Jewish culture, children take the religion of the mother, not the father.

"I'm a big supporter of all the synagogues," Eiland said. "I'm also a big supporter of St. Philip's"—giving merchandise to charity auctions for the parish school.

Eiland said LaTorre had complained in the past "about all the Jewish things we carried for Hanukkah" and that "we had nothing for Christmas."

The store, which carried a gag toy of a punching rabbi until it was discontinued recently, also sells the once trendy boxing nuns—two puppet figures dressed in traditional habits.

"In its heyday, our biggest sales were to the nuns at the Catholic church further down 24th Street," Eiland said. "They thought it was hilarious. He [LaTorre] complained about that."

Ironically, a San Francisco resident from a devout Catholic family dreamed up the Obama candle. Designer Johnny Oliver said a "little Photoshop magic turned Saint Martin de Porres into Santo Obama."

"Many hardcore Catholics are Spanish speakers, and I'm Mexican myself. They get a giggle out of it," said Oliver, a real estate agent who took on the candle sideline after the slump in the housing market.

Oliver, who now sells the candles in 10 stores across three states, said he had gotten very little flack from the Catholic Church or ardent believers.

"I mostly got it from my mom," he said.



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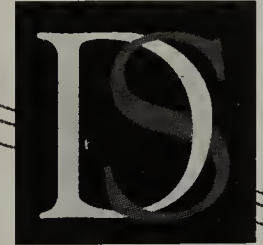
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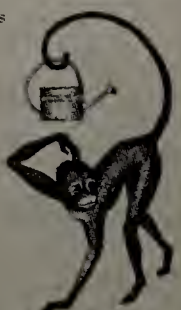
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John Corey's *Lost in The Fog* a Window On Harry Aleo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the hunt for a good story, Corey toyed with the idea of showcasing Aleo, but he couldn't see to find the right angle.

That is until 2005, when the *San Francisco Chronicle* started running stories about a local racehorse who kept winning races and might be a candidate for the Kentucky Derby—a horse owned by “a cantankerous old guy infamous in his San Francisco neighborhood for putting conservative paraphernalia in the windows of his dusty old real estate office,” Corey says. “I thought, That’s my guy. I have to do a piece on him now.”

After trying in vain to leave a phone message for Aleo, Corey walked into Twin Peaks Properties at 4072 24th Street and introduced himself in person. “He took to me right away. Harry had grown up in Noe Valley too, on Diamond Street, so as far as he was concerned, we were just a couple of guys who grew up in the neighborhood, albeit 50 years apart. We became fast friends.”

Corey did his piece on Aleo and *Lost in the Fog* for KPIX, and wound up spending months following his subjects through stables and around racetracks. But as he watched the colt’s fairy-tale winning streak come to its sad end—the thoroughbred had to be put down in 2006, after being diagnosed with cancer—he realized he had more than just a TV spot. He had a feature-length documentary.

The film *Lost in the Fog* had its official premiere last June at the CineVegas Film Festival in Las Vegas, where it had earned the Best Documentary Audience Award. Before that, it was given a special screening at the Kabuki in San Francisco.

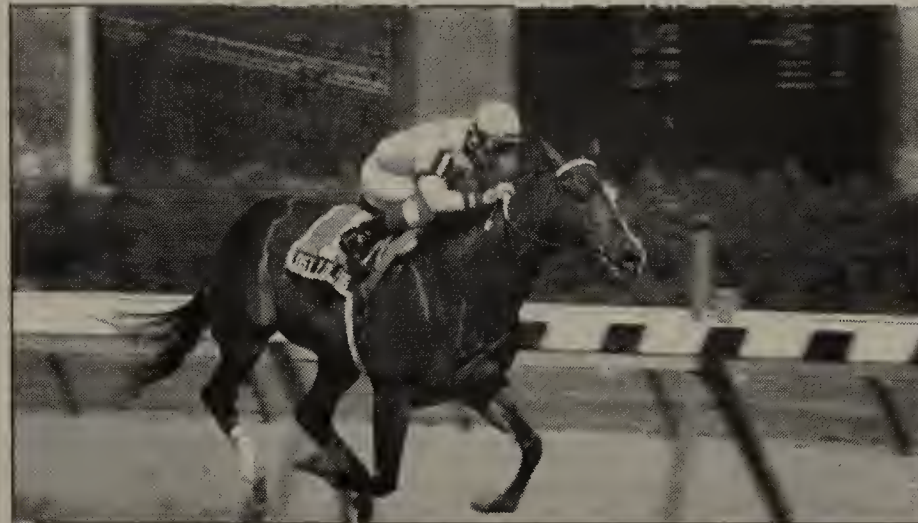
Fortunately, Aleo got to see the film before he died.

“The first time he saw it, true to form, he told me he hated it,” Corey recalls. “At that point, it was just too raw for him. The horse hadn’t been gone for that long, and it still stung. He wasn’t a big fan of watching himself either.”

Eventually, however, Aleo grew to like the film a lot. In fact, he would invite



Director John Corey at the track with Harry Aleo (right).



Lost in the Fog in full flight.

Photo stills courtesy John Corey and Doctored Pictures

friends over for dinner and afterwards ask if they wanted to watch a movie—*Lost in the Fog*. “He was a big fan at the end.”

As for Corey, he spent all of last summer showing the film at festivals, including the Rhode Island International Film Festival, San Diego Film Festival, and Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis. By far, the most prestigious screening was at the International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA).

“It’s the biggest documentary film festival and market in the world, and I must admit that I was shocked when they called and said they wanted to show the movie—in the Best First Feature competition, no less,” Corey says. “I’m not necessarily established in the film world, and for the programmers at IDFA to pick this

movie off the pile was a tremendous honor. It’s the Cannes [Film Festival] of the documentary world. I remember sitting there in a theater full of all these important filmmakers, sales agents, and the like, just laughing, thinking to myself, There’s Harry in all his cantankerous

glory—in Amsterdam of all places.”

Eventually, Corey had to leave his KPIX job “to really do the story justice. As of now, I’m working hard on getting *Lost in the Fog* shown in theaters and on television, and am also developing another feature-length documentary on the great, doomed jazz trumpeter, Lee Morgan.”

Corey thinks Noe Valleyans in particular will find the *Fog* movie fascinating, because it will give them a window (no pun intended) on the man behind the storefront slogans.

“Everyone knows of the windows, but it’s the rare few who mustered up the courage to go inside and talk to him,” Corey says. “I’ll admit that I was intimidated by the facade. I think most people in Noe Valley will be surprised by how funny and authentic and ultimately charismatic Harry is.”

The film is on sale as a limited-release DVD at Castro Street’s Video Wave and on Corey’s website, www.lostinthefogthemovie.com (check out his blog as well at www.lostinthefogthemovie.blogspot.com).

For now, Corey is selling the DVD to “assorted hardcore horseracing fans and Noe Valley folks exclusively.” Once the film goes through whatever theatrical and broadcast showings it might have, he’ll release the DVD more widely, and it will then be available for rental.

What’s next for *Lost in the Fog* and its creator?

“My big push will be around May, to take advantage of the publicity surrounding the Kentucky Derby,” Corey says. “I hope to put together an outdoor screening in the neighborhood, a kind of a drive-in affair at either the Noe Valley Ministry lot across from Martha’s Coffee [on 24th Street] or the parking lot across from Harry’s office. I think it would be great fun—a good family event—and I’ll be working with Video Wave to make it happen.”

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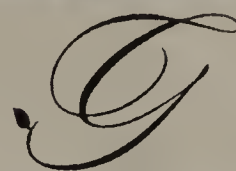
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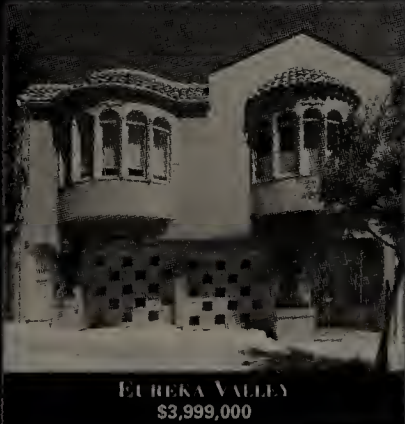


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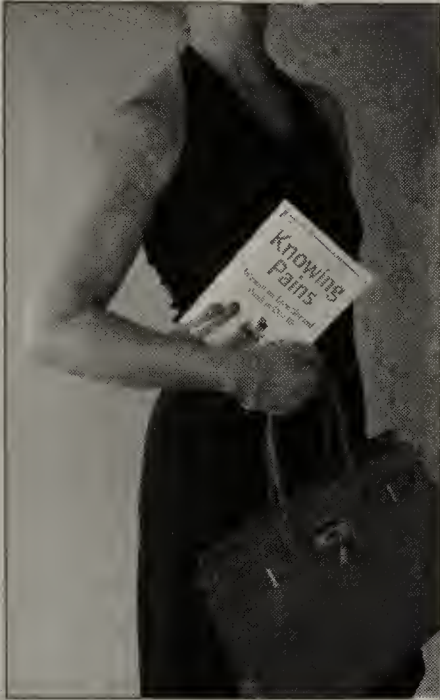
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Women in Their 40s Write to Benefit Breast Cancer Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Bali with several girlfriends. But what turned out to be Perro's most life-altering declaration did not take place as December gave way to January one year. Instead, it happened while she was visiting a friend on Nov. 4, 2000. "I made some huge statement about, 'If that blankety-blank [Bush] gets elected, I'm moving to Paris.' About a year and a half later, I made good on that promise," she recalls. Detailed in the essay "I Declare," Perro's subsequent five-year relocation to the City of Lights, and the life lessons that



Three Noe Valley writers contributed essays to *Knowing Pains*, a book that recently traveled as far as the *Today* show.

came before and after the move, comprise one of three stories by Noe Valley residents in the new book *Knowing Pains: Women on Love, Sex, and Work in Our 40s*. All net proceeds from the book are being donated to Breast Cancer Action, a nonprofit breast cancer research and advocacy group founded in San Francisco in 1990. Other stories by neighborhood residents are "The Real Marathon" by 27th Street writer Tina Goette and "On Being Single" by Samantha Pinney, who lives on Dolores Street. Since its debut last fall, the collection of essays by women in their 40s (32 from 12 states) has met with noteworthy levels of success for a self-published book created entirely through volunteer efforts. Recently, the book gained national recognition when it was featured during a Jan. 23 segment on NBC's *Today* show. Judging from the raves on Amazon.com, the book could well achieve its goal of selling 13,000 copies and raising \$50,000 for Breast Cancer Action in its first year.

Confidently Single

The project began, simply enough, when Goette's friend and the book's editor, Molly Tracy Rosen, went in search of just such a book, only to come up empty-handed. "I literally woke up on my 40th birthday, planning to read a book like this. I couldn't find one. That's when I started reaching out to women I knew. The intent really was to help fill a void that I found personally," the Oakland resident explains. When Rosen couldn't find a book offering wisdom and advice to women entering their 40s, she decided to quit her job and compile one herself. The collection entertains with essays touching on everything from 40-something rock fandom to the sudden loss of a husband stricken with a brain tumor. The stories differ widely. Some are thoughtful and reflective, others full of unan-

swered questions, and others irrepressibly funny. "Women in their 40s have so many different roles, as mother, as worker, as boss, as employee, as a lover. Just the range of roles that we have, I think there's a lot of pressure for women...and I think a lot of the essays speak to, you know, we're good enough at what we're doing and we need to stop trying to pressure ourselves to be perfect and accept ourselves where we are," says Goette, whose story recalls her struggles as a newly divorced single mother coming to terms with her new life while training to run half of the San Francisco Marathon. As Goette, a self-described non-runner, prepares for the city's annual summer race, she discovers that she possesses the mental resolve not only to meet the physical challenge, but to press through the emotional transition from married to divorced, to confidently single.

'Best Decade of My Life'

One of the few defining aspects of the collection is the writers' lack of chagrin regarding the oft-maligned decade in question. "One thing that surprised me was how incredibly positive almost everybody was. Most [contributors] said, 'This has absolutely been the best decade of my life thus far,' and that surprised me because I have always thought the popular media portrayed [being 40] as a bad thing," muses Rosen, who lives in Oakland. Even in stories where sadness and frustration with life's circumstances are palpable, there's a common thread of optimism and hope that runs throughout. Take Samantha Pinney's meditation on life as a single woman in her 40s, for example. "On good days, I feel empowered by the choices I've made and am hopeful that the right relationship is still waiting for

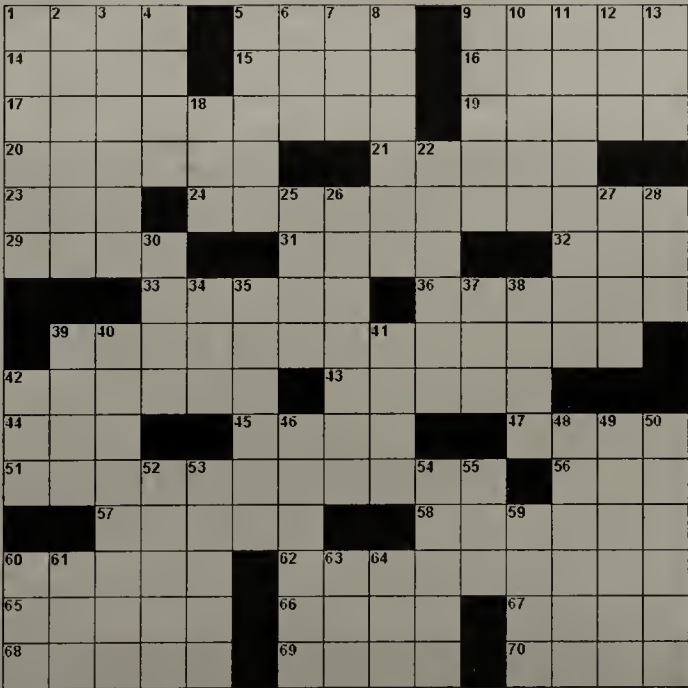
me," she writes in her essay. "On bad days, I pray for a time when I won't care so much about being alone. Happiness feels tenuous when I consider contradictory feelings from one day to the next. One chance encounter could change everything." **Solidarity Helps** For Pinney, the opportunity to write for *Knowing Pains* came during the dark, post-breakup days following the end of a serious relationship. "I wish at the time I had been in a much more happy place and written something super silly. I have a lot more stories, and I'm a very funny person," she says. Despite her wishes that she'd been able to write a sunnier, lighthearted piece for the book, she knows that her own dark period offers potential comfort to readers. "I hope that they realize that there are other people out there that feel the same way," she says. Traversing the 40-something decade—as the contributions from Goette, Pinney, and Perro illustrate—may not always be easy. But in *Knowing Pains*, at least, aging comes with an empowering message. Says Rosen: "Statistically, we're halfway through our lives when we're 40. It's really a time when, as the subtitle suggests, we're old enough to know better and young enough to do something about it."

Local bookstores carrying *Knowing Pains* (list price \$16.95) include Christopher's Books in Potrero Hill and San Francisco Books Inc. locations. Several contributors will participate in a San Francisco reading for the book on Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Laurel Village Books Inc. Information about upcoming readings is available at www.knowing-pains.com.

CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

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- ACROSS**
- 1. Toy-pistol ammo
 - 5. Extremely proper
 - 9. Shoestrings
 - 14. Former Giants manager Felipe
 - 15. A Mrs. Chaplin
 - 16. Samuel of the Supreme Court
 - 17. Noe Valley middle school attended by 39-Across
 - 19. Forearm bones
 - 20. "Limit, ___ customer"
 - 21. Company in a 2001-02 scandal
 - 23. "___ Abner"
 - 24. "Album of the Year" for 39-Across' "Supernatural" in 1999, for example
 - 29. Those things, to 39-Across
 - 31. Christmas carol
 - 32. Man-to-be
 - 33. Cousins' moms
 - 36. Go up against
 - 39. Subject of this puzzle
 - 42. Dan Quayle's spelling bane
 - 43. "Casablanca" woman and namesakes
 - 44. Choose (to)
 - 45. Eins, zwei, ___
 - 47. Tattled
 - 51. Attraction at 17-Across named for 39-Across
 - 56. Excessively
 - 57. Witches' assembly
 - 58. Crosses off
 - 60. California-Nevada lake
 - 62. 1970 hit song (it means "Hear How It Goes") for 39-Across
 - 65. Transparent, as



- stockings
- 66. Golfer's alert
- 67. Couturier Cassini
- 68. Rice field
- 69. Fold the flag
- 70. "Pretty Woman" star
- and malls
- 12. Greek H
- 13. "H-E-L-P!"
- 18. Wet thoroughly, in dialect
- 22. Pantyhose forerunners
- 25. Aardvark snacks
- 26. Less like a rolling stone?
- 27. Civil rights icon Parks
- 28. Coloring agent
- 30. Lee who bakes
- 34. Final (abbr.)
- 35. Pesky type, slangily
- 37. Educ. support group
- 38. Bygone
- 39. Deal with adversity
- 40. Stapled or paper-clipped
- 41. "Put ___ on it!"
- 42. Rice Krispies sound
- 46. "My Wife ___ with My Best Friend, And I Sure Do Miss Him"
- 48. "Lawrence of Arabia" star
- 49. Slatted window opening
- 50. Waning years
- 52. Made dove sounds
- 53. Partner of each
- 54. Microsoft's spreadsheet
- 55. Prefix with classic or natal
- 59. Air pollution
- 60. Baking meas.
- 61. "Eureka!"
- 63. Last word of the golden rule
- 64. Make a boo-boo

Solution on Page 45



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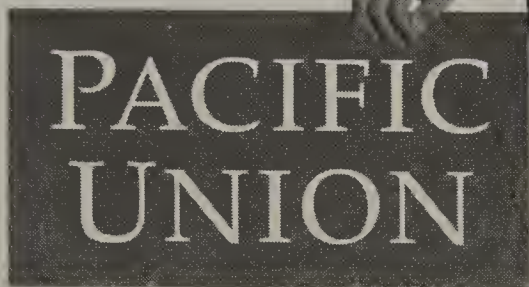
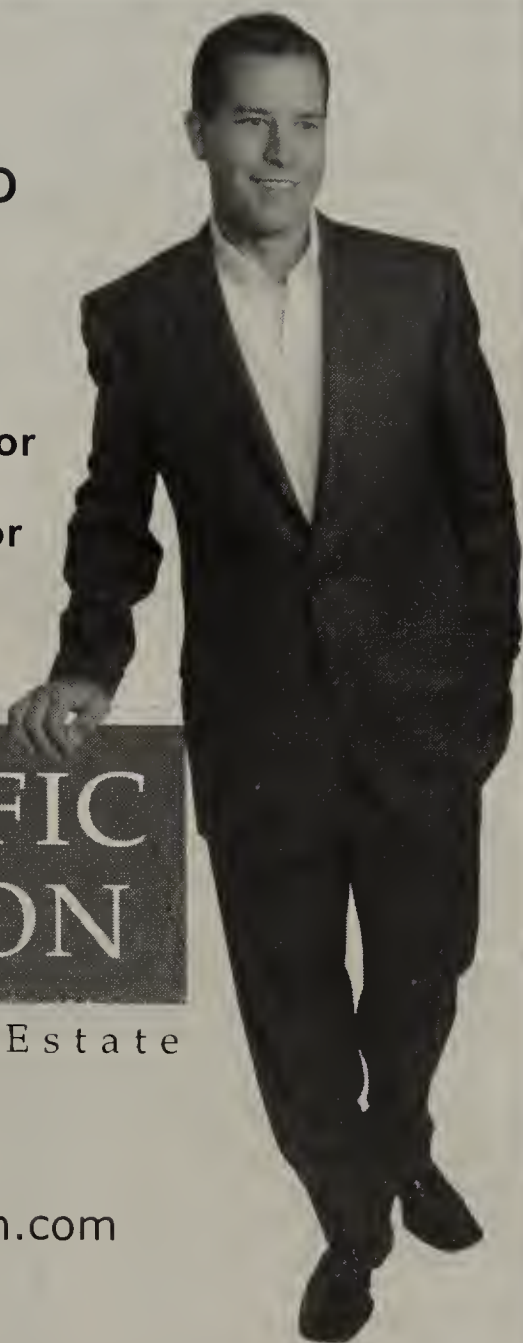
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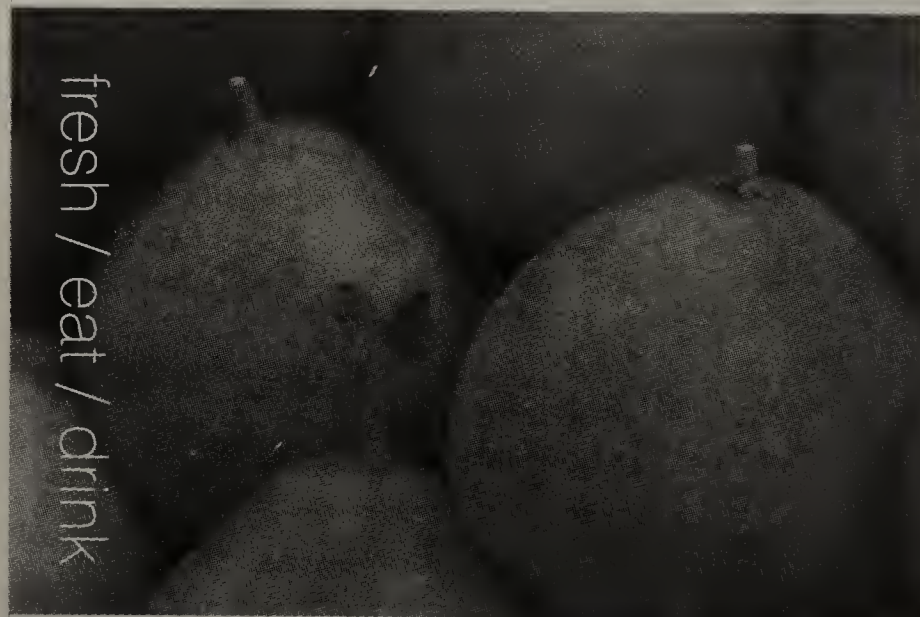
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Home Sales Few and Far Between

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley homebuyers showed a marked change in their habits during the last two months of 2008. They stopped paying full price for residential properties.

The new frugality drove down the average sale price—about 20 percent in a year-to-year comparison of December single-family home sales—according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

In addition to a drop in home values, the neighborhood experienced an uptick in the number of days a property spent drifting slowly in the wind. In fact, the housing market was in near hibernation, as sales frequently took two to three times longer than last year to close escrow.

In December 2008, six detached homes sold at an average cost of nearly \$1,220,000. Buyers paid 99 percent of the asking price and finalized the transaction in 75 days.

The previous December, buyers purchased just four homes, but at an average price tag of nearly \$1,537,000. They paid 103 percent of the listed price, and picked up their keys in only 35 days.

Seven detached homes changed hands in November 2008, and buyers paid an average 95 percent of the asking price, down from 99 percent a year earlier. The sale of a home for a record \$5.8 million, however, skewed the average sale price, pushing it to \$1,921,000. That's compared with \$1,572,000 in November 2007. (See "House Sells for \$5.8 Million," December 2008/January 2009 issue.)

With buyers also writing smaller checks for condos, Zephyr general sales manager Randall Kostick acknowledged that Noe Valley's housing market had cooled since the boom in mid-decade.

"There's just not as much enthusiasm about buying and selling," Kostick said. "We're definitely seeing typically longer days on the market...and you don't have the over asking prices that we had two years ago."

Many of the transactions involve owners who need to sell for lifestyle reasons, such as a job transfer. Additionally, said Kostick, buyers may be taking advantage of opportunities that are "overwhelmingly in favor of them," including low mortgage interest rates.

Kostick blamed some of the sluggish activity in November and December on the lack of consumer confidence in the nation's economy.

"People watch the news and read the papers, and as far as they're concerned, it's disastrous out there," he said. "We have no idea how good we have it here [in Noe Valley] compared with so many other places, but we're feeling it."

As the *Voice* previously reported, the \$5.8 million house sold in November is located in the 600 block of Duncan Street near Newburg Street. It has four bedrooms, 4.5 baths, four-car parking, 5,000 square feet of living space, and a separate one-bedroom, one-bath rental unit.

Buyers paid \$1.5 million to snare December's most expensive detached home, a four-bedroom, 2.5-bath dwelling with 3,100 square feet of space and four-car parking. It can be found in the 600 block of 28th Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets.

Plight of the Condo

Only two condos closed escrow last November, selling at an average price of nearly \$870,000, or 94 percent of what the seller originally sought. The transactions closed in 91 days—taking three times longer than a year ago, when five sales averaged \$1.1 million and buyers paid 106 percent of the asking price. (Note, however, that a pair of condos is too small a sample to take too seriously.)

Shoppers purchased four condos in December, the same number as the year before. But the average cost was about \$870,000, or 2 percent beneath the asking price, down from an average of \$975,000 in December '07, when buyers typically paid the full list price.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Dec. 2008	6	\$885,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,219,833	75	99%
Nov. 2008	7	\$1,000,000	\$5,818,000	\$1,921,143	32	95%
Dec. 2007	4	\$1,450,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,536,500	35	103%
Nov. 2007	7	\$900,000	\$2,350,000	\$1,572,157	42	99%
Condominiums						
Dec. 2008	4	\$650,000	\$1,198,000	\$869,500	76	98%
Nov. 2008	2	\$324,000	\$895,000	\$609,500	91	94%
Dec. 2007	4	\$725,000	\$1,150,000	\$974,500	38	100%
Nov. 2007	5	\$642,500	\$1,987,500	\$1,100,900	32	106%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
Dec. 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 2008	3	\$1,050,000	\$1,360,000	\$1,195,000	64	100%
Dec. 2007	4	\$899,900	\$1,501,000	\$1,239,275	39	99%
Nov. 2007	4	\$899,000	\$2,350,000	\$1,437,250	29	95%
5+-unit buildings						
Dec. 2008	1	\$1,960,000	\$1,960,000	\$1,960,000	197	96%
Nov. 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined in this survey as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the sales data. N11 2/09

The most expensive condo sale in December '08 occurred in the 4100 block of Cesar Chavez, between Castro and Noe streets. The nearly \$1.2 million unit offered two bedrooms, 2.5 baths, parking, and 1,550 square feet of living space.

Buyers paid the asking price of \$895,000 for November's top-selling condo, a two-bedroom, one-bath unit with two-car parking and 1,400 square feet. The condo is located in the 100 block of 28th Street, between Dolores and

Church streets.

For those who think the only way they can purchase a home in Downtown Noe Valley is by winning the lottery, here's a teaser. In November, a buyer paid \$324,000, a relative pittance, for a condo on 24th Street between Noe and Sanchez streets. To be sure, the condo has only 445 square feet and no parking.

Still, "that's the lowest price I can remember in quite a while," said Kostick.

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Jan. 2009	Average Jan. 2009	Average Nov. 2008	Average Jan. 2008
Studio	10	\$1,100 – \$1,850	\$1,429 / mo.	\$1,439 / mo.	\$1,375 / mo.
1-bdrm	27	\$1,400 – \$2,650	\$1,880 / mo.	\$2,119 / mo.	\$1,865 / mo.
2-bdrm	43	\$1,899 – \$4,200	\$2,972 / mo.	\$3,085 / mo.	\$2,809 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$2,495 – \$5,950	\$4,086 / mo.	\$4,462 / mo.	\$4,088 / mo.
4+-bdrm	10	\$4,400 – \$8,500	\$6,759 / mo.	\$6,253 / mo.	\$7,106 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 106 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Dec. 23, 2008, to Jan. 9, 2009. N11 2/09

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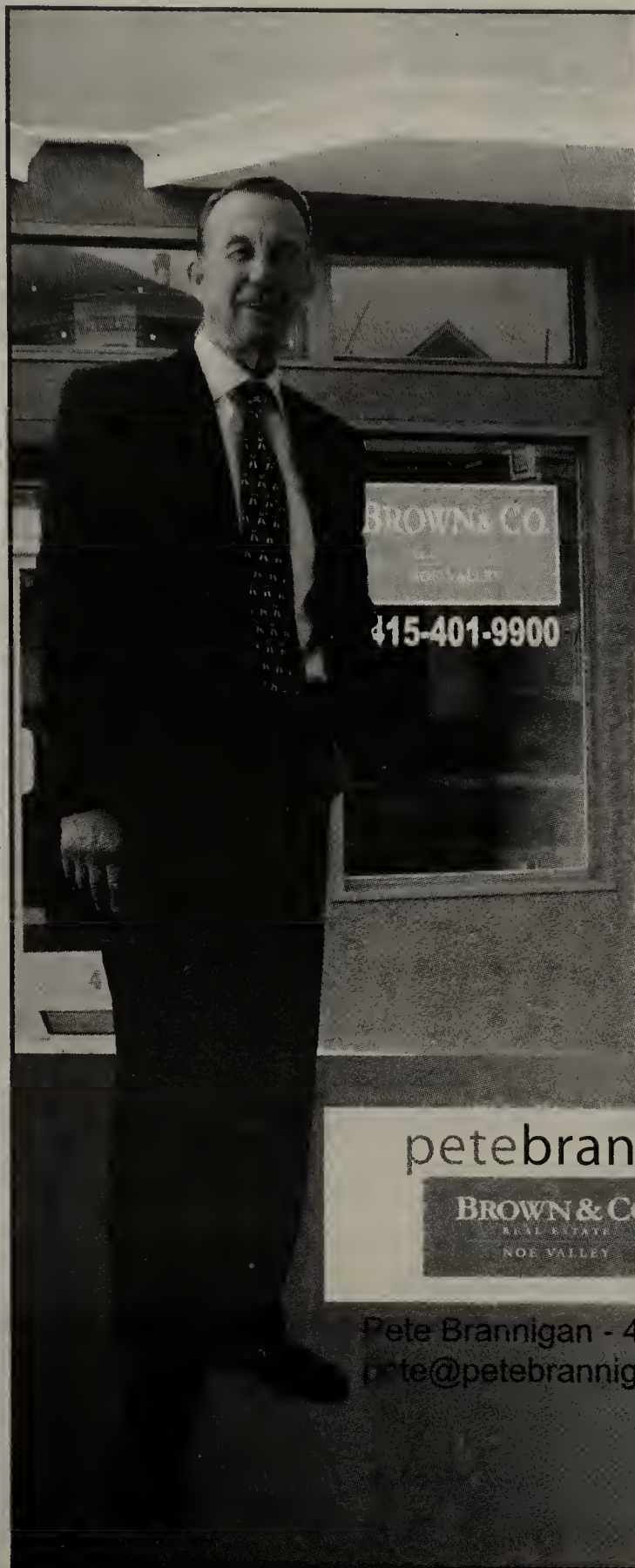
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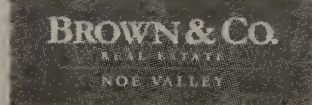
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Peace Blotter

The Age of Obama is about diplomacy, right? So it seems a perfect time to do a "Peace Blotter," showing how neighborhood conflicts can be resolved without threats, litigation, or a call to police. To that end, the Voice asked Community Boards, a San Francisco nonprofit offering no- and low-cost mediation services since 1976, to provide us with a sampling of recent cases in and around Noe Valley. The log that CB sent back covers a variety of disputes, several occurring over fences. Names have been changed by CB's staff, to protect the innocent and respect confidentiality. Though it used to be on Valencia, Community Boards is now located at 3130 24th Street between Shotwell and Folsom. To find out more about its conflict-resolution and other programs, visit www.communityboards.org or call 920-3820.

CASES FROM THE FILES OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

Noise

Monica L. lives above Paolo J. in a tenancy-in-common. She received complaints about making too much noise from him. Paolo felt her responses were inadequate and would play loud music to drown out her noise. *Resolution:* Monica will reduce noise by hiring an acoustical engineer, and she and Paolo will share the expense. They both agreed to act in good faith, communicate via e-mail, and respond in a timely fashion.

Communication Breakdown

Gregory M. and Eliot P. casually knew each other prior to beginning their joint film project. Conflicts slowly began to surface due to their different "creative" styles. Work on the project eventually stalled because of a complete communications breakdown. *Resolution:* Gregory and Eliot created a timeline for completing the project and a financial plan for sharing both current costs and any future revenue.

Property Maintenance

The Clarksons and Kirps are adjacent homeowners who have had an ongoing dispute over their shared property line and fence placement. *Resolution:* Both families agreed to share the expense of hiring a surveyor and to abide by the surveyor's results.

Professional/Workplace

Jim G. created an innovative medical rehabilitation program for cancer patients, hiring Gail S., a longtime friend, to assist him. Communication problems arose and worsened, straining both the work relationship and their friendship. Jim was close to terminating Gail, but feared losing a good friend. *Resolution:* Jim and Gail agreed to separate the work relationship from the friendship by formalizing

performance reviews in an office setting, keeping them focused on the program and minimizing any personal conversation, which they would save for more appropriate social settings.

Fence/Tree Maintenance

Tanya L., an elderly, long-term homeowner, believed that her fence was being damaged by a tree in an adjoining yard. It had grown to where it pressed against the fence. Roger Q., the absentee landlord of the property where the tree grew, felt that the fence's disrepair was due to its age. *Resolution:* Roger had the tree professionally pruned, and both he and Tanya agreed to share the cost of repairing the fence.

Divorce/Children Visitation

Yu-Yee W. and Winson F., a divorced couple, had issues involving visitation of their children, who now live with Yu-Yee and her new husband. *Resolution:* Yu-Yee and Winson agreed to have scheduled, structured visits and to modify their behavior while in the presence of the children. Yu-Yee also agreed to seek anger-management support. They both agreed to revisit this arrangement in three months and revise the terms if needed.

Property Damage

Ray M. lent his car to his cousin, John M., who was involved in an accident with a Golden Gate cab. Golden Gate's insurer refused to pay for repairs because neither driver had filed a police report, which would have indicated who was at fault. The mediation included Ray, John, the taxi driver, and an insurance representative. *Resolution:* The insurance company decided to pay for the majority of the repairs, with Ray and John sharing the remaining cost.

Landlord/Tenant

Consuelo H., the landlord for Teresita J., wanted her tenant to vacate her property. Teresita had agreed to move out before, but continued to occupy the unit. Tensions had escalated to the point where both had sought restraining orders against the other. Both had also acquired legal counsel and were moving toward the lengthy eviction process. *Resolution:* Parties created a nine-step action plan that allowed Consuelo to secure her property and Teresita to vacate with a positive reference from the landlord.

Fence/Pets

Two adjacent property owners, the Longs and the Garrisons, shared the expense of building a cinderblock wall between their properties many years ago. At the same time, the Garrisons topped the wall with a wooden fence. The Garrisons recently removed the fence due to the wall's aging, and did not replace it. They also have two large dogs that the Longs fear might jump the cinderblocks. *Resolution:* The Longs will replace some damaged cinderblocks (which is why the Garrisons pulled the wooden fence down), and the Garrisons will replace the wooden fence. They determined the height of the new fence to address the Longs' concern about the dogs.

CRIME BEAT

Editor's Note: This month's Crime Beat page may appear a bit odd. First, incidents from the northern half of Noe Valley, under the jurisdiction of Mission Police Station, are missing. That's because Officer Jane Warner of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, who regularly combs the files and reports incidents to the Voice, is on medical leave—we all hope temporarily. We plan to pick up with the Mission Police District data next issue. Second, the tally from Ingleside Police District by Captain Denis O'Leary includes twice what it normally does, in other words, two months of incidents. O'Leary's log covers incidents reported Nov. 16 to Jan. 15, within the area bounded by Grand View, Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, and 30th streets. Lastly, this month we are offering a "Peace Blotter" (at right), supplied by the mediation group Community Boards.

UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

By Ingleside Police Capt. Denis O'Leary
Incident Report for Nov 16, 2008, to Jan. 15, 2009

Nov. 17, 12:30 p.m., Comerford & Church: One detained in dog attack.

Nov. 18, 3 p.m., 200 block of Duncan: Theft. Residential parking permit taken from car (occurred in October).

Nov. 18, 2 p.m., 1400 block of Sanchez: Vandalism to parked vehicle. Unknown substance thrown on moped in garage.

Nov. 20, 7:45 a.m., 1600 block of Church: Mental health intervention. 37-year-old San Francisco man detained for psychiatric evaluation at San Francisco General Hospital.

Nov. 21, 1:45 p.m., 1500 block of Noe: Burglary. Occurred October–November. No forced entry found. Computer, peripherals, and checks taken.

Nov. 24, 12:45 a.m., 1500 block of Church: Mental health intervention. 36-year-old Noe Valley man taken to SFGH for observation.

Nov. 24, 9 p.m., 400 block of 29th: Fraud; eBay case. Victim defrauded of \$4,000.

Nov. 27, 2 p.m., 1600 block of Church: Battery. Officer Castillo investigated an elder abuse case and arrested a 47-year-old Noe Valley man for felony battery. Case #081270690.

Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m., first block of Duncan: Burglary. Occurred between Nov. 27 and 28. Forced entry via front door. Television taken.

Nov. 30, 8:20 p.m., 2100 block of Castro: Battery. Officer Dominguez investigated a domestic violence incident and arrested a 37-year-old Noe Valley man for felony battery. Case #081820815.

Dec. 2, 5 p.m., 1500 block of Church: Stolen vehicle. 1988 Honda moped.

Dec. 4, 1 a.m., 1500 block of Noe: Mental health intervention.

Dec. 6, 1 a.m., 300 block of Valley: Traffic collision. Hit-and-run (no injuries).

Dec. 11, 10 a.m., 100 block of 28th: A car owner found four pieces of cardboard with nails protruding from them placed beneath his vehicle's tires.

Dec. 16, 7:50 p.m., 29th & Church: Stolen vehicle: 1994 Honda.

Dec. 17, 4 p.m., 200 block of Day: Auto burglary (Internet report).

Dec. 19, noon, 1700 block of Church: Fraud. Internet theft case.

Dec. 20, 10:50 p.m., 29th & Castro: Arson. SFFD extinguished a car fire, and officers found it to be reported stolen from Vallejo.

Dec. 20, 2:40 p.m., first block of 30th: Stolen vehicle. 1986 Toyota recovered.

Dec. 21, 6:10 p.m., Sanchez & 29th: Traffic collision. Pedestrian injured.

Dec. 25, 3:38 p.m., 500 block of Duncan: Mental health intervention.

Dec. 29, 10 a.m., 200 block of 30th: Missing person, juvenile.

Dec. 29, 11:30 a.m., 400 block of 29th: Vehicle strip. Occurred between Dec. 26 and 27. Catalytic converter taken from Nissan truck.

Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m., 29th & Church: Warrant Service. Officer Lewis and Officer McCall stopped two men at 29th and Church streets in order to question them about their activity seen earlier near a car on 30th Street. One man ran from the officers, and Officer Lewis gave pursuit. She captured the man, a San Francisco resident, on 30th Street. He was wanted by the California Department of Corrections for a parole violation. The second man, also of San Francisco, was in possession of methamphetamine, and Officer McCall arrested him. The car belonged to the second man. Two laptop computers were seized as property for safekeeping from the car's trunk.

Jan. 2, midnight, first block of 28th: Petty theft of property (Internet report).

Jan. 4, 7:20 a.m., first block of 29th: Threatening notes found.

Jan. 4, noon, 200 block of 30th: Found person, juvenile (same person as described in Dec. 29's entry).

Jan. 7, 4:15 p.m., 300 block of Day: Found person. A resident called the police because an elderly man in pajamas kept ringing the doorbell, claiming that he lived there. Officer Mourgos investigated and found that the man suffered from dementia and had walked away from his home in the Hunters Point District. The officer reunited the missing man with his daughter.

Jan. 8, 5:45 p.m., 300 block of Valley: Death case. Cause unknown.

Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., Dolores & 30th: Traffic collision. Pedestrian injured. 58-year-old SOMA District man taken to SFGH for observation.

Jan. 11, 11:35 a.m., 27th and Church: Stolen vehicle. 1995 Honda Civic taken sometime between Jan. 9 and Jan. 11.

Noe Valley's Police Districts

Noe Valley falls under the jurisdiction of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission police cover the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside police the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue.

To speak to an officer at Mission Station, call 558-5400. The station's tip line for anonymous reporting of drug or gang activity is 392-2623. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 575-4444.

For citywide online reporting and e-mail addresses, go to www.sfgov.org/police. You can also find crime data, sorted by zip code, at www.CrimeReports.com or <http://11sf.everyblock.com/>. To report a crime in progress, call 911.

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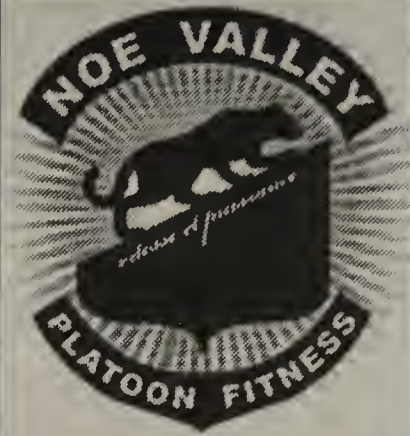
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SHORT TAKES

A Packed Town Hall

Supervisor Bevan Dufty will be among the panelists at a town hall on Noe Valley's burning issues—Bell Market, Whole Foods, and neighborhood safety—sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at St. Philip's Church.

Dufty will share the stage with Capt. Stephen Tacchini of the San Francisco Police Department; Glen Moon, vice president for development at Whole Foods Market; and Debra Niemann, executive director of the Noe Valley Association (NVA), the community benefit district along 24th Street.

Tacchini, who is captain of Mission Station, plans to discuss SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone), a city-funded project that organizes block and merchant watch programs.

Moon will field questions about Whole Foods, which will be taking over Bell Market's site after Bell closes in mid-February (see Voice front page). And Niemann will share the NVA's ideas for streetscape improvements along Noe Valley's commercial strip.



Imagining Istanbul is Noe Valley resident Robert Root's latest book of photography.

The town hall starts at 7:30 p.m. in St. Philip's Parish Hall, located at 725 Diamond Street between Elizabeth and 24th streets. The event also includes the annual election of officers by the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

For information or to suggest questions for the panelists, call Democratic Club vice president Molly Fleischman at 415-641-5838 or e-mail molly@ffrsf.com.

—Noel Lieberman

Imagining Istanbul

Jersey Street resident Robert Root, a psychiatrist and self-taught photographer, has published his second book in two years of scenes from his foreign travels.

Imagining Istanbul is a coffee-table book featuring portraits, landscapes, and architectural photos that Root took on a five-day visit to Istanbul, Turkey, last spring.

"It's a book of first impressions during a visit to an ancient, exotic, and mythical city," says Root, who has lived in Noe Valley for more than a dozen years.

Lucienne Thys-Senocak, an associate professor at Koç University in Istanbul and a specialist in Ottoman architectural history, wrote two companion essays for the book.

As he did with his first book of photography, *Image in Mind: The Psychiatrist As Photographer*, Root says he plans to donate a portion of his proceeds to charitable causes, such as health care for indigent children.

The book, which San Francisco-based Rock Out Books published Dec. 8, is available at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Castro Street and Phoenix Books on 24th Street.

—Corrie M. Anders

Blissfully Jazzy

Sunday afternoons on 24th Street have gotten jazzier over the last few months—and we mean that quite literally. Bliss Bar has launched an ongoing series featuring Bay Area jazz veteran and master pianist Larry Vuckovich, accompanied by a different guest musician or vocalist each week.

"They're top jazz people," Bliss Bar owner Pierre Letheule says.

Indeed, the February lineup includes such popular local jazz scenesters as Kim Nalley (Feb. 8), Jackie Ryan (Feb. 15), and Noel Jewkes (Feb. 22).

"I've been here for eight years, and

Bethany Moves to the Mission During Renovation

One-hundred-year-old Bethany United Methodist Church has a new house of worship—at least temporarily. For the next few years, the congregation will hold services in the Mission District while major renovations are under way at Bethany's aging sanctuary at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets.

The church relocated Jan. 11 to the Bethany Center at 580 Capp Street near 21st Street. It will share space with the center, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and other services to low-income people.

The church does not have a precise timetable for completing the extensive remodeling project and getting the 150-member congregation back to its Noe Valley roots.

"If the city of San Francisco cooperates [with building permits], we anticipate being back in the building in two years," said Dr. Judson O. Gears, who became Bethany's pastor last August.

The modernization and earthquake-retrofitting project, estimated to cost \$3 million, will include replacing the foundation, modernizing all bathrooms, and adding an elevator and a second lift to make the church more accessible for disabled and senior parishioners.

Architects have designed a new courtyard entrance off Sanchez Street, where there will be a new elevator to the sanctuary. The lift at the Clipper Street entry will be upgraded.

"The new elevator will get you to the second floor, where there will be Sunday school and office space," Gears said.

Churchgoers will see a new façade when they return. "The present brick façade is not going to survive, and it's going to be taken off," he said. The new exterior will "be closer to what it looked like when it was built" in 1908.

In addition, chairs are likely to replace the long wooden benches in the sanctuary. The new seating will be the kind that can be reconfigured for musical events or other activities. Gears noted.

Last summer, the United Methodist Church asked Gears, who had been retired, to take over the pastorate following the two-year tenure of the Rev. Lauren Chaffee.

"The opening was unexpected...so they invited me to come in on an interim basis to fill in. I'll be here at least this year," and his stay is renewable on a year-to-year basis.

Gears, 67, and his wife, Betty, relocated to Noe Valley from the Grass Valley area. They reside at Bethany's Duncan Street parsonage.

—Corrie M. Anders

people have always asked me to do live music," explains Letheule, whose establishment will celebrate its ninth anniversary in the neighborhood this year.

Each Sunday, Vuckovich and his guests perform three sets in the bar's front room, which Letheule estimates can accommodate up to 45 patrons.

"It's very laid-back. It's sort of 1950s style, very good music, and it's a very comfortable atmosphere," he adds.

That's not the only new development at the bar, located at 4026 24th Street near Castro. Since November, an informal group of local comedians has begun holding an open mike event on Monday evenings,

starting at 8 p.m. The event itself is free, but those interested in performing should contact the organizer in advance by e-mailing jacobbagel@yahoo.com.

The Bliss Bar Sunday Afternoon Jazz Series, dubbed "The Art of Duo," takes place Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is a \$10 cover charge for the event. For more information, call 415-826-6200 or visit www.blissbar.com.

—Lorraine Sanders

Short Takes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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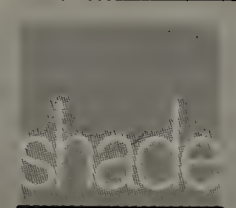
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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Bluegrass Fest Turns 10

The San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival returns to the Noe Valley Ministry this month for its 10th season showcasing bluegrass, country, and folk music. The neighborhood venue will host three of the 34 events in this year's festival, running Feb. 6 to 14. Other venues near the neighborhood include the Make-Out Room, the Atlas Cafe, Cafe du Nord, and the SoCha Cafe on Mission Street. Along with live performances, this year's fest features an opening-night square dance, workshop series, and a kids show at the Randall Museum.

The three events at the Noe Valley Ministry are co-presented by the Noe Valley Music Series. First up is a Saturday, Feb. 7, concert called the "Old Time Show," highlighted by a reunion performance of the Crooked Jades—Jeff Kazor, Lisa Berman, Stephanie Prausnitz, Tom Lucas, and Megan Adie—back together for the first time in five years. Joining the Jades are the live acts Huckleberry Flint and the Water Tower String Band, along with deeJay Tom LG, who spins bluegrass 78s from the 1920s to the 1950s. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door.

On Friday, Feb. 13, Grammy Award-winning Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick, co-founders of the Good Ol' Persons, perform solo sets before joining forces in the evening's finale. Tickets for that event are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door.

On Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, the Ministry hosts the "Traditional Blue-

grass Show," featuring the guitar pickin' and close harmonies of Del Williams, Blue & Lonesome, and San Francisco's own Homespun Rowdy for \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door.

All shows start at 7:30 p.m., at 1021 Sanchez Street. Tickets are available online through www.brownpapertickets.com. Advance tickets are also available in person at Phoenix Books and Records, 3850 24th Street; 415-821-3477.

For more information about the Noe Valley Music Series, visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com. The festival's complete schedule, including workshops and performances, is at www.sfbluegrass.org.

—Lorraine Sanders

A Parachute for Dancers

A local nonprofit is seeking donations to a fund that offers a safety net to members of the dance community.

Dancers' Group, which supports performers and programs throughout the Bay Area, hopes Noe Valley residents will consider contributing to its Parachute Fund.

The fund, established in 1987, provides grants to Bay Area dancers and choreographers facing HIV/AIDS or other life-threatening illnesses. Grant recipients, who can be awarded up to \$1,500 a year, often use the money for such things as dance class tuition, rehearsal space rental, or their own apartment rent or medical supplies. Since its founding, the fund has distributed more than \$100,000.

Donations may be sent to Dancers' Group, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103. (Please make checks payable to S.F. Foundation/Parachute Fund.)

Another way to help the fund is to donate clothes or other discards to Community Thrift Store at 623 Valencia Street (near 17th). Tell the store the items are to

be credited to the Parachute Fund (charity #160).

Both types of donations are tax-deductible.

For information on the program or on how you or someone you know can request a grant, contact Wayne Hazzard at 920-9181 or wayne@dancersgroup.org. Or go to www.dancersgroup.org and click on Programs.

—Sally Smith

Carbs for a Cause

A neighborhood restaurant is offering local diners the chance to eat for a good cause this month. At all California Pasta Pomodoro locations, including Noe Valley's on 24th Street, one-fifth of the food sales on Feb. 24 and 25 will be donated to Roots of Peace, a nonprofit organization whose projects replace landmines left in war-torn countries.

Proceeds from the initiative will fund efforts to remove landmines left in Afghanistan as a result of the Soviet occupation of the 1980s and the Afghan Civil War of the 1990s. In place of the landmines, the organization plants vineyards and other sustainable crops to aid farms and rural communities.

To ensure a percentage of the tab goes to the charity, diners should mention the words "Roots of Peace."

They also might want to take advantage of another special offer at the restaurant, founded in 1994 by Liberty Heights resident and chef Adriano Paganini.

On Tuesday nights, at the Noe Valley Pasta Pomodoro at 4000 24th Street, kids can eat free. The kids menu includes child-friendly basics like cheesy pasta, pizza, and grilled cheese sandwiches. Also this month, the restaurant is promoting a pre-fixe menu on Valentine's Day for \$49 per couple.

For menus and other locations, visit

www.pastapomodoro.com. More information about Roots of Peace is available at www.Rootsofpeace.org.

—Lorraine Sanders

Celebrate Chinese New Year

Tired of all the economic evils we suffered during the Year of the Rat? Want to bring in the Year of the Ox, known for its propensity for prosperity?

Then get thee to 24th Street for a Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday, Feb. 7. There will be lion dances and fireworks, plus treats for the kids, at the 2 p.m. event in front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th Street.

"We're going to burn a lot of firecrackers and make loud noises to scare away the evil spirits in the new year," says Zephyr real estate agent Tuan Tran, who is hosting the celebration.

Lion dancers from the Yau Kung Moon dance troupe will help usher in lunar year 4707 (which officially started Jan. 26). Drummers will accompany the performance, expected to last approximately 45 minutes.

This is the 10th year Tran and Zephyr Real Estate have co-sponsored the Chinese New Year festivities on 24th Street.

"It's a nice way to bring in the new year, and to bring something cultural into Noe Valley," Tran says.

—Corrie M. Anders



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— 5 star review of The Noe Valley Clinic posted by Thaddius L. of San Francisco on Yelp.com

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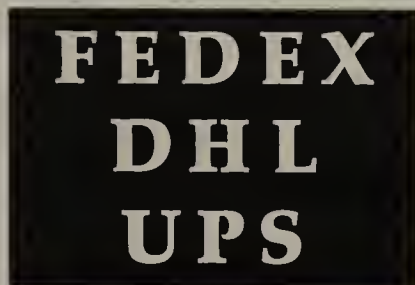
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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

San Francisco - According to industry experts, there are physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of buyer expectations during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair, delays or willing buyers. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the buyer's inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help home sellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-596-8310 and enter 1511. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call now to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of Jane Ivory, Hill & Co. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.

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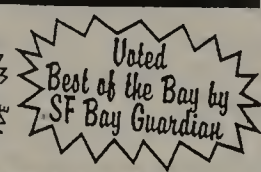
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Valentine's Day Every Day: As regular readers of "Florence's Family Album" know, Leo and Florence Holub are one of those lucky couples who made a perfect match. Both lovers of art (and a good joke), they tied the knot almost 68 years ago, after Leo convinced Florence that their easy compatibility should not be taken for granted. Two careers, three children, and scores of photos, quips, and columns later, the Holubs are still in love and happily tinkering on projects in their home on 21st Street. With over 100 essays now safely archived on the Voice website, Florence, 90, has no interest in writing new ones. But if she did, we're sure she'd write that sweetheart Leo, 92, still tickles her funnybone. And that's their secret!

Photo by Pomelo Gerard

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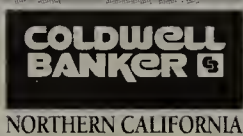
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NOE TELLING

When the going gets tough—Noe Valley gets back to basics!

By Kathy Zucchi

It has been a little more than 10 years since I first started my business here in Noe Valley. I work for Edward Jones Investments as a financial advisor. We are trained to go out into the community and introduce ourselves to our new neighbors.

One of the first people I met was Robert Roddick, who just happened to be an estate planning attorney. He strongly encouraged me to join the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. I followed his suggestion and ended up with more than I had bargained for. I later served as vice president and eventually president of the organization. That led me to my first physical office space here in Noe Valley, and in 2003 I expanded to a larger office.

I also owned a home in Noe Valley from 2001 to 2005 until I sold it, again with the help of a great real estate agent I met here in Noe Valley (Donna Sullivan at Hill & Company). I bought a place up in Twin Peaks, so I could keep a good eye on everyone in Noe Valley.

Well, I've seen quite a bit in my time in Noe Valley. I know these are troubling times for our economy. However, there are a few bright spots on the economic horizon.

I personally am keeping my clients very well diversified. A diversified portfolio has served many of them well, even in this severe downturn in the stock market. I have been able to give my retirees their monthly "paychecks," so that feels great.

Also, there are very attractive yields on high-quality municipal bonds. They are a nice way to get back some of your tax money, tax-free!

A Roth IRA has great tax-free advantages over time, so fund one if you are eligible. Pay down any credit card debt you may have.

And stick to a budget. And if you don't have a budget—make one.

These are just a few of the things I help my clients with. All common sense, but it has been my experience that common sense is all too uncommon in trying times. It's a new year, so it is always a great time to start fresh!

I see many quality companies that have been hammered, but they won't always be beaten down. This presents a great buying opportunity while they are on sale. I look for companies with a long history of paying rising dividends over time.

Don't "fall in love" with your invest-

ments and never overweight individual stock in any one company, no matter how great you might think it is.

With Obama in the White House, the economy will be the number one priority. So I sense a wave of mortgage refinancing this country has never seen. With interest rates at historic lows, I would encourage anyone considering refinancing to go for it. Just make sure you are with a reputable lender.

I also encourage clients to save a little and to spend a little. This is important if they want to achieve their longer-term goals, like buying a first or second home, saving for their children's education, or perhaps starting their own business. The ultimate goal for most of my clients is retirement. And the goal of the ones who are already retired is to stay that way!

Finally, I encourage everyone to shop locally. There are many businesses in Noe Valley that really deserve our shopping dollars. Because I work in the neighborhood, it is convenient for me to shop here as well. My dry cleaners is here, as well as my bank. I love the Noe Valley Bakery (perhaps too much!). I have purchased more than my fair share of flowers from our local florists, and baby presents from Small Frys. Rabat, Le Zinc, Noe Valley-Deli, Subs Inc.—I can't resist their chocolate shakes! And now Toast Eatery. Can't forget my friends at Starbucks either.

Noe Valley is a great little community inside the much larger community of San Francisco. We are lucky to live and work in such a beautiful city in one of the greatest countries in the world. Think globally, but try to shop locally. Otherwise, all the businesses we enjoy so much in Noe Valley may not be there the next time we need them.

Many thanks to all the great people I have met in Noe Valley over the last 10 years, and hopefully, 10 more to come!

And if you are still depressed after all of this good news, how about buying a few good drug company stocks?!

Stay healthy, count your blessings, enjoy your friends and family, work hard, play hard, live long and prosper! Peace to all!

Kathy Zucchi recently celebrated her 10th anniversary as an Edward Jones investment advisor in Noe Valley.

NOE TELLING

what you think about this neighborhood. Send your opinion pieces, particularly those relating to Noe Valley, to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include name, address and phone. Thank you.

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FEBRUARY

Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22: The Bliss Bar Sunday Afternoon JAZZ SERIES features pianist Larry Vuckovich and guest artists. 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200.

Feb. 1-March 1: William Wolff and Jane Fisher exhibit PAINTINGS at ArtZone 461 Gallery. Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia. 441-8680.

Feb. 2, 9 & 23: Infants and crawlers are invited to sing and play in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

Feb. 2-26: Kids in grades K-7 can get HOMEWORK help at the Mission Library Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

Feb. 2-27: Children and their caregivers are invited to KIDS GYM at the Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon.-Fri., 10-11:30 am. Enjoy the Music Man on Mon., 10:30 am; Wed., 11 am. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

Feb. 2-27: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

Feb. 2-28: OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

Feb. 3, 10 & 17: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, for ages 18 to 36 months, at 10:15 am; and FAMILY STORY TIME at 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.stpl.org.

Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Chris Sequeira gives a beginners TAI CHI class Tuesdays, with a free introductory session. 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

Feb. 3-25: LANGO sponsors weekly classes in Tot/Parent (Mon., 10 am) and Preschooler SPANISH (Tues., 2 pm; Wed., 3 pm) at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.langokids.com.

Feb. 3 & March 3: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554-3050.

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: MoBu Studio's Palersize Adventures in Fitness presents PAL TIME-4-TOTS, a class for kids, 18 months to 3 years, to practice motor skills. 9-9:40 am. 1605 Church. 550-PALS.

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Upper Noe SENIORS group meets on Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday LAPSIT, for newborns to age 3, begins at 3 pm; an afternoon story time for ages 3 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. Tiny Tots Room, 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25: Kiki-Yo offers a drop-in KIDS YOGA class from 4:45 to 5:30 on Wednesdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

Feb. 4-27: Maria Tam teaches a new YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

Feb. 4-28: The City Art Gallery hosts "HOT! Hot! Hot!" an exhibit of erotic art. Reception Feb. 6, 7-10 pm; Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.com.

Feb. 5-8: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Falsettos*, a MUSICAL "about lesbians, gay men, an ex-wife, their child, and a straight psychiatrist." Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 & 7 pm. 2926 16th. 861-5079; www.TheRhino.org.

Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26: A Thursday STRDLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26: CANDLELIT YOGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. Thursdays, 7 pm. 605B Chenery. 587-5454.

Feb. 5-22: The 11th SF Independent FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Victoria Theatre. 2961 16th. 820-3907; www.stindie.com.

Feb. 5-26: Fifty24SF Gallery exhibits "MAGIC TRICK" by Anthony Lister and "Seeing Things" by Greg Craola Simkins. Reception Feb. 5, 7-9 pm; Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 248 & 252 Fillmore. 252-9144.

Feb. 5-March 5: Visit the national traveling exhibition *Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times*, showing at the Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.stpl.org.

Feb. 6: See a "Bee Mine" ART reception featuring Noe Valley artist Irene Hendrick. 7-11 pm. Live Worms Gallery, 1345 Grant. 641-8882; <http://stguildarts.blogspot.com>.

Feb. 6 & 7: The Marsh's Youth Theater Teen Troupe performs *FEARS OF YOUR LIFE*, based on the book by Michael Bernard Loggins from Creativity Explored. 8 pm; also 2 pm Feb. 7. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27: CLARE tells tales for children at Cover to Cover Booksellers' Friday-morning story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Feb. 7: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Misissippi Mike (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Feb. 7: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts a "Thank You and Farewell" ceremony for BELL MARKET, with cake and speeches for the departing staff. 11 am, in the horse-shoe next to the Farmers' Market, 24th & Vicksburg.

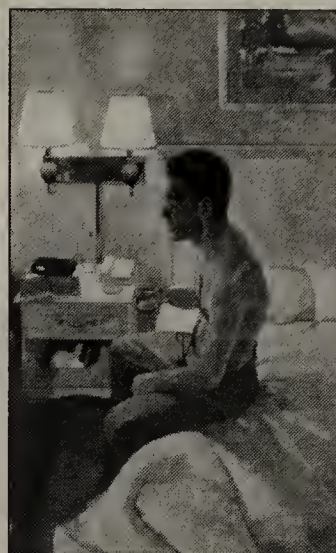
Feb. 7: Help YDLANDA RHODES celebrate African American History Month with music and movement. 11:30 am. Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission. 355-2868.

Feb. 7: Usher in the CHINESE NEW YEAR of the Ox with fireworks, drummers, and Lion Dancers from the Yau Kung Mood dance troupe. 2 pm. In front of Zephyr Realty, 4040 24th. 695-7707.

Feb. 7: M.F.K. Fisher biographer discusses her new book, *Out of the Kitchen: Adventures of a FOOD WRITER* at Omnivore Books. 2-3 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 7: The seventh Scary Cow FILM FESTIVAL features shorts by local filmmakers. 3 pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro. 621-6120; www.castrotheatre.com.

Feb. 7: The SF BLUEGRASS & Old-Time Music Festival at the Noe Valley Ministry hosts the Crooked Jades, Huckleberry Flint, and the Water Tower String Band. 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalley-musicseries.com.



Jane Fisher's *Drink* is part of her February show at ArtZone 461 Gallery, 461 Valencia St.

Feb. 7 & 21: Handmade JEWELRY, including ornaments by Dona, make up the trunk show at When Modern Was. 11 am-6:30 pm. 1504 Church. 970-1030.

Feb. 8: David Cameron Strachan discusses his work as the Intersex Outreach director for MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA at a PFLAG support group meeting. 2-4:30 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Feb. 8: Gwen Mazer presents her new book, *WISE WOMEN, Wild Talk*. 2:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 8: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts an Even Monday event: Lee Gordon discusses Arab-Jewish bilingual schools in Israel. 3-6

pm. 101 Lombard Community Room. RSVP required: 821-2090; jlsender@webtv.net.

Feb. 8 & 22: Learn about AFRICAN enslavement and stories of escapes, at "Maritime Routes of the Underground Railroad," a free ranger talk at Hyde Street Pier. 1:30 pm. 447-5000; www.nps.gov.

Feb. 9: Berkeley professor Michael Nagler discusses "Making Peace Possible from Here to the Middle East," at the ODD MONDAYS series. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

Feb. 9-April 9: The exhibit *The African American Concert Singer, 1900-1960* pays homage to both well-known and forgotten classical music stars. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.stpl.org.

Feb. 10: Learn how to set up and use an E-MAIL account. 2-3 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 337-4740.

Feb. 10: Attend a free SMALL CLAIMS COURT workshop. Low-income encouraged. 6 pm. 760 Market, Suite 1042. 693-9811.

Feb. 10: Janis Cooke Newman discusses *Mary: A Novel*, the story of MARY TODD LINCOLN. 6:30-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.stpl.org.

Feb. 10: BETH LISICK reads from *Helping Me Help Myself* at 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246; www.mtbs.com.

Feb. 11: Bring your child for YOGA with Rebecca Blake, toddlers, 2:30 pm; school-age kids, 4 pm. 2:30 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

Feb. 11: The SF Fun Raisers hold a CHARITY DATE AUCTION to benefit What Now America, a local organization working with inner-city youth. 6 pm-midnight. 330 Ritch. 786-9669; www.sffunraisers.org.

Feb. 11: Attend a DEBATE on the ethics of personal genetics, as part of DARWIN DAYS at the Exploratorium. 7 pm. 3601 Lyon. 563-7337.

Feb. 11, 18 & 25: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for newborns to 18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

Feb. 12: The SF Center for the Book sponsors an exhibit, "Wings for Words: New BDOKWORKS from Korea and Japan." Reception Feb. 12, 6-8 pm; Sat., noon-4 pm. 300 De Haro. 565-0545.

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CALENDAR

Feb. 12-Oct. 29: The ACADEMY of Sciences launches "NightLife," \$10 evenings featuring music, food, cocktails, and science. Thursdays, 6-10 pm. Golden Gate Park. www.calacademy.org.

Feb. 13: The SF Bicycle Coalition presents the "Love on Wheels OATING GAME" at the Rickshaw Stop. 6-9 pm. 155 Fell. 431-BIKE; www.sfbike.org.

Feb. 13: Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick, founders of the Good Ol' Persons, perform at the SF BLUEGRASS & Old-Time Music Festival. 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 13 & 14: Scott Capurro Goes Deeper features the answers to uncomfortable questions in the form of a COMIC MONOLOGUE. 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 14: Noe Valley Farmers' Market MUSIC begins with Michael Shaffer (8:30 am) and continues with Jude (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Feb. 14: Friends of the Urban Forest host a TREE PLANTING in the Castro. 9 am-noon. For info, call Naomi at 561-6890, ext. 100.

Feb. 14: The SF SILENT FILM Festival at the Castro Theatre features *A Kiss from Mary Pickford*, *Sunrise*, and *The Cat and the Canary*. Box office: 833 Market. For schedule see www.silentfilm.org; 1-800-838-3006.

Feb. 14: Mani Niall, executive chef for Just Desserts, talks about *SWEET!* and *Covered in Honey* at Omnivore Books. 2-3 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 14: Meet local doulas and MIDWIVES at an ongoing second-Saturday event at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; www.naturalresources-sf.com.

Feb. 14: Catch Del Williams, Blue & Lonesome, and Homespun Rowdy at the SF BLUEGRASS & Old-Time Music Festival at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 14: An ALT-BLUEGRASS show at Café du Nord features Los Duggans, Kemo Sabe, The Shut-Ins, and Ledbetter. 8:30 pm. 2170 Market. 861-5016; www.sfbuegrass.org.

Feb. 15: Noe Valley Ministry's free JAZZ VESPERS service features the Oave Rocha Quartet. 5-6 pm. Upper Hall, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

Feb. 15: DUB MISSION presents a live dub confrontation and recording between the Warsaw Poland Brothers and the Upright West Coast Collective. 9 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788.

Feb. 15 & March 1: SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays through April. 1-3 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

Feb. 16: Chris Anderson from the BIOENGINEERING department at UC Berkeley discusses treating cancer with *e coli*. 7-9 pm. Atlas Café, 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafest.com.

Feb. 18: Supervisor Bevan Duffy and Whole Foods' Glen Moon attend a TOWN HALL at the monthly meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 625 Diamond. 641-5838.

Feb. 18 & April 21: Parents Place sponsors a WORKSHOP, "Handling Anger: Yours and Your Child's." 6-8 pm. 1710 Scott. Register 359-2454; www.parentspaceonline.org.

Feb. 19: Valerie Thomlinson entertains with DANCING PUPPETS and ventriloquism. Groups, call for reservations. 10:45 am. Eureka Valley Library, 100 Collingwood. 355-2827.

Feb. 19: The City Planning Commission is set to hear WHOLE FOODS' permit application for a store at Bell Market on 24th Street. 1:30 pm. City Hall, Room 400.

Feb. 19: Craig Dawson, founder of the MT SUTRD Stewards, discusses the restoration of hiking trails and the development of the summit garden. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

Feb. 19-April 5: CHARLIE VARDN performs his solo play *Rabbi Sam*. 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 19, March 12 & 26, April 30: City College holds a free Thursday festival in IRANIAN CINEMA. 1 pm. Rosenberg LLRC, Room 305. 452-5569; www.ccsf.edu/library.

Feb. 20: Former leaders of the Weather Underground BILL AYRES and Bernardine Dohrn discuss their book *Race Course: Against White Supremacy*. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia. 282-9246; www.mtbs.com.

Feb. 20-22: The Pacific Institute hosts the first annual International FILM FESTIVAL on Aging at the AMC Van Ness 14 and Castro theaters. For a schedule: 861-3455; www.filmfestonaging.org.

Feb. 20-March 27: "Future Landscapes Designed by Women" is the 22nd annual SOLO MUJERES art exhibit at the Mission Cultural Center. Reception Feb. 20, 7-10 pm. 2868 Mission. 821-1155; www.missionculturalcenter.org.

Feb. 21: The Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by Sandy Ross (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Feb. 21: PUBLIC GLASS offers an "Intro to Beadmaking" workshop. 10 am-4 pm. 1750 Armstrong. 671-4916; www.publicglass.org.

Feb. 21: *Small Plates, Perfect Wines* by LORI NARLOCK features 50 small-plate recipes. Wine and appetizers served from 2 to 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 21: St. Paul's third annual CRAB FEED benefits the parish's athletic programs. 7-10 pm. 221 Valley. 648-7538.

Feb. 21-April 25: SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park offers a 10-week training for VOLUNTEERS to inform visitors about plants, conservation, and environmental issues. Saturdays, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Registration required: 661-1316, ext. 412; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Feb. 22: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents the Chamberbridge duo, performing "I Hate Music but I Love to Sing," childhood explored through art song. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

Feb. 22: Duo Metis performs MUSIC for piano and cello by Debussy, Shostakovich, and Beethoven. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 826-8670; www.sfcmc.org.

Feb. 22: The Which Way West? concert at Bird & Beckett features the group TANGD No. 9. 4:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 24: Enjoy FILMS for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 at the Noe Valley Library at 451 Jersey St. 10:15 & 11 am. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

Feb. 24: Musician/journalist Tim Holt plays "WOODY GUTHRIE and the Great American Folksong." 7-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org.

Feb. 24: Rand Richards discusses his book about the 1849 GOLD RUSH, *Mud, Blood, and Gold*, at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

Feb. 24 & 25: In a statewide celebration called "Manga for PEACE," Pasta Pomodoro donates 20 percent of food sales to the non-profit Roots of Peace. 4000 24th. 920-9904; www.pastapomodoro.com.

Feb. 25: Learn about the "Colony Collapse Disorder" that is afflicting commercial BEE-KEEPERS, at a free "Talks!" event at CounterPulse, 1310 Mission. 7:30 pm. 626-2060; www.counterpulse.org.

Feb. 25-March 7: Former Warhol Factory superstar PENNY ARCADE performs the regional premiere of *Bitch! Dyke! Fag hag! Whore!* at Brava Theater. 8 pm. 2789 24th. 561-6565.

Feb. 26: The Bernal Heights Library BOOK CLUB discusses *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman. 4 pm. Coleridge Park Homes, 190 Coleridge. 355-2810.

Feb. 26: Radical Women host a BLACK HISTORY MONTH homage to poet Audre Lorde, with a screening of *A Litany for Survival*, followed by a tribute by Merle Woo. Dinner, 6:15 pm; program 7 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin, Suite 202. 864-1278.

Feb. 26: UPPER NOE Neighbors holds its monthly meeting at 7:30 pm at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez. Call to confirm: 285-0473.

Feb. 27 & 28: A COMEOY MARATHON at the Purple Onion features "5 Funny Females, 5 Funny Friends, 5 Funny Fags, and 5 Funny Filipinos." 140 Columbus. Call 956-1653 for times and lineup.

Feb. 28: Oamond Moodie (8:30 am) and Dennis Campagna & Friends (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

Feb. 28: The Juri Commoners welcome VOLUNTEERS to a workday in Juri Commons park. Between Guerrero & San Jose, and 25th and 26th. E-mail juricommoners@yahoo.com.

Feb. 28: Technicians from the SF Health Department will check children's car seats for safety, from 10 am to noon. For location, and to reserve a free space, call 581-2400.

Feb. 28: Stephanie Rosenbaum discusses *Love Signs in the Kitchen*, the connection between ASTROLOGY and food, at Omnivore Books. 2-3 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

Feb. 28: Louise Nayer, author of *How to Bury a Goldfish*, discusses ways to create family RITUALS. 3-4 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 337-4740.

Feb. 28: The Chuck Peterson Quintet performs JAZZ at Bird & Beckett. 5:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

Feb. 28: See new works by the SF COMPOSERS Chamber Orchestra. 8 pm. 1751 Sacramento. 474-1608; www.olderfirstconcerts.org.

Feb. 28-March 6: The SCIENCE FAIR projects of SF middle school students are on display at the Randall Museum. Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

March 1: Board the historic SF Maritime National Park VESSELS at Hyde Street Pier free on the first Sunday of the month. 447-5000; <http://nps.gov/safr>.

March 1: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows ott dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

March 4: The SFSPCA celebrates its 140th BIRTHDAY with a dinner at the Julia Morgan Ballroom at the Merchant Exchange Building. 465 California. For ticket information, 522-3564 or www.sfspca.org.

MARCH FORWARD

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **March 2009** issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting March 4. Mail calendar items by **Feb. 15** to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: Events in Noe Valley get priority, but we'll consider items from all around the city.



OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2009

SAT
FEB
7

JEANETTE FERRARY, AUTHOR OF *OUT OF THE KITCHEN: ADVENTURES OF A FOOD WRITER* • 2:00-3:00 PM • FREE

Jeanette Ferrary, food writer and M.F.K. Fisher biographer will discuss her book and the power of food to seduce, cajole, comfort or distract.

SAT
FEB
14

MANI NIAL, AUTHOR OF *SWEET!* AND *COVERED IN HONEY* • 2:00-3:00 PM • FREE

Mani Niall, executive chef for Just Desserts, will share some of his favorite sweet treats and teach us what we can do to sweeten Valentine's Day!

SAT
FEB
21

LORI NARLOCK, AUTHOR OF *SMALL PLATES, PERFECT WINES* • 2:00-3:00 PM • FREE

Lori Narlock will discuss pairing wine and appetizers and share her secrets for creating little dishes with big flavors. Please join us for wine and appetizers.

SAT
FEB
28

STEPHANIE ROSENBAUM, AUTHOR OF *LOVE SIGNS IN THE KITCHEN* • 2:00-3:00 PM • FREE

Stephanie Rosenbaum has figured out the connection between astrology and food - and you thought it couldn't be done! Join us for sensuous snacks.

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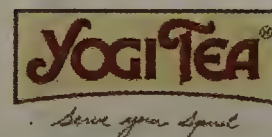
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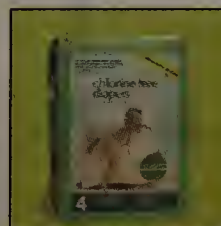
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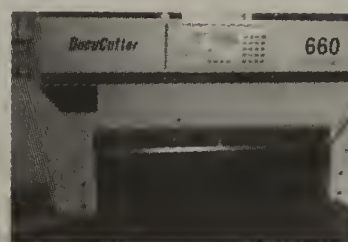
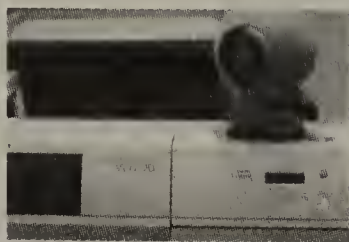
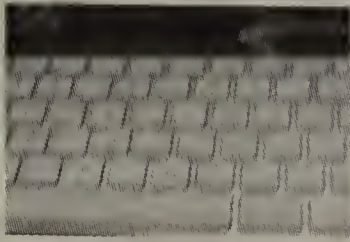
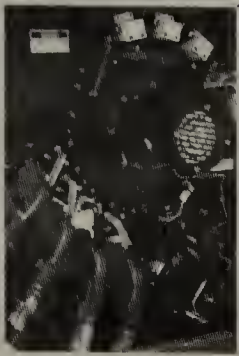


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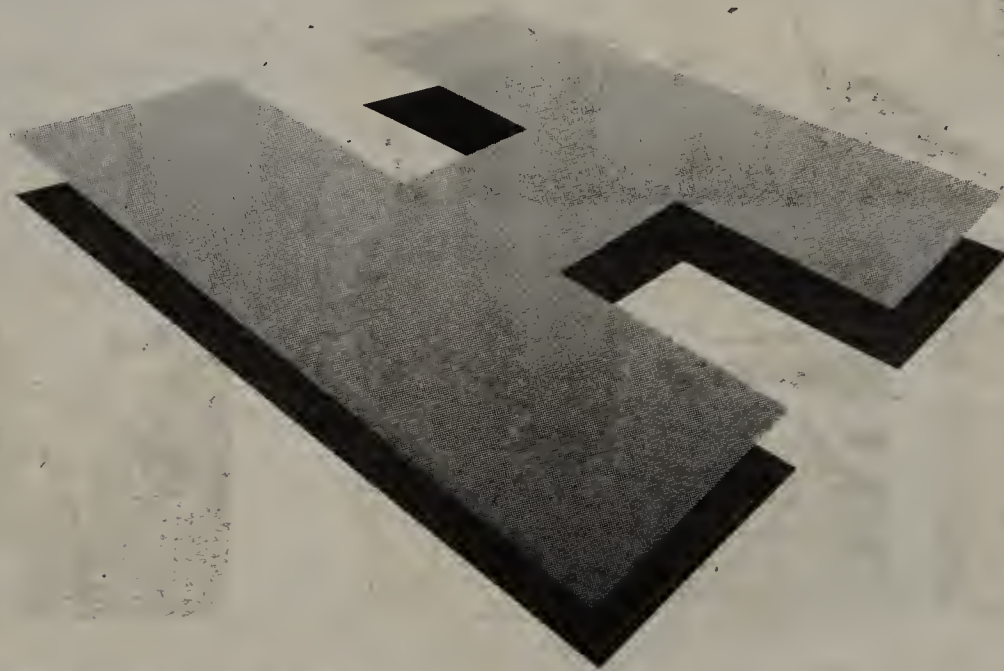


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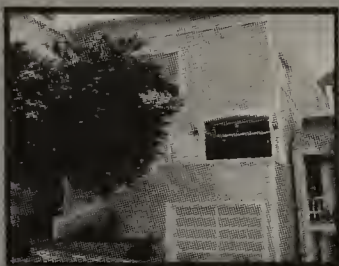
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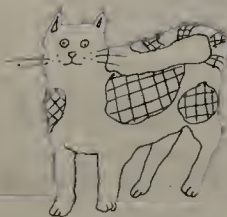


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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a Chinese restaurant on Church and a 24th Street store whose racks are filled with discounted designer clothes for men, women, and children.

HENRY'S HUNAN RESTAURANT
1708 Church Street (between Day
and 29th streets)
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The next time you need living proof that families can, in fact, work harmoniously together, make a visit to Upper Noe, where Henry's Hunan has become the latest destination for hungry seekers of Hunan-style Chinese fare.

Opened Nov. 22 in the space formerly occupied by the short-lived Pescheria, the Church Street outpost of the locally owned chain is run by brothers Jeff and Eddie Zhu. They are the grandsons of Henry and Diana Chung, who opened the first Henry's Hunan location in 1974 at 853 Kearny Street. (Just three years later, the Chungs had earned an official proclamation of praise from former Mayor



Owners Jeff Zhu (left) and Eddie Zhu serve diner Eric Delacruz a few specialties from their menu of 81 dishes at Henry's Hunan on Church Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

George Moscone for serving food "distinguished by its consistent excellence, its unique combination of seasonings, and its sturdy, robust character.")

Today, there are a total of four Henry's Hunan restaurants doling out fast, inexpensive Chinese fare in downtown San Francisco. Each is run by one of the Zhu brothers' immediate family members or cousins. The Noe Valley eatery is the family's fifth venture.

"Working with family, you work harder because you consider it family. On the other hand, you have more control, you can be more open," Jeff says.

After working for years at the downtown restaurants, brothers Jeff and Eddie welcomed the opportunity to venture out into the neighborhoods.

"Noe Valley is a very nice place," Jeff explains.

Before opening, the Zhus made minor adjustments to the restaurant's kitchen, but did little to change the dining room. There are new red, pendant lights above the bar, but Pescheria patrons will notice that the bar's tiling and the dining room's wooden tables, silver chairs, and seating scheme remain unaltered.

The menu, featuring the highly spiced dishes rooted in China's northern Hunan province, offers 81 items, ranging from appetizers, like onion cakes (\$2.50) and dumplings (\$5.50), to such entrees as Kung Pao Tofu (\$8) and Beef with Broccoli (\$8.95).

What makes the cuisine stand out?

According to Eddie, "Nice healthy food for people, lots of good ingredients. It's nothing really fancy. It's fast-cooked and fresh ingredients."

Adds Jeff, "We don't use any preservatives or coloring."

The most popular items, Eddie testifies, are numbers 59, 53 and 56 (Chicken and String Beans, \$8.95; Henry's Special Seafood, \$10.50; and Curry Chicken, \$8.95). Henry's also offers soups like won-ton and hot-and-sour (both \$6), and three cold Hunan salads—bean sprout, eggplant, and chicken—for \$6 to \$7.75.

In mid-January, the restaurant added a lunch menu with rice plates (\$6.95 to \$7.25), noodle dishes (\$6 to \$8.50), and fried rice varieties (\$6.50 to \$8.25).

In the coming months, the restaurant is pondering the addition of local delivery. It also plans to have the back patio open for dining by summer.

Henry's Hunan is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

CARY LANE
3813 24th Street (at Church)
415-896-4210
www.carylansf.com

In recent years, the ladies have pretty much cornered the market on fashion along 24th Street. Guys seeking items other than bikes, glasses, or the odd pair of shoes have had to leave the neighborhood to satisfy their wardrobe needs.

All that changed on Nov. 28, when a boutique called Cary Lane opened on 24th near Church, in the storefront where Noe Valley Natural Foods (and Jim and Son's Produce) once stood. Carrying designer labels at deep discounts 20 to 60 percent off the original retail price, the shop stocks an ever-changing array of men's apparel, from names like Addict, Ted Baker, and Zegna, to Hyden Yoo and Artificial Flavor.

"Everything is [priced at] wholesale or way below wholesale," notes co-owner Cary LaScala, whose middle name is Lane.

Women and kids shouldn't feel left out, though. Along with the menswear, the store has children's clothing by Japanese label Evisu and an array of women's labels, including Quail, Joie, Paige Denim, Chip & Pepper, and Loeffler Randall. Shoes, hats, scarves, and personal care products like Claus Porto soaps and Jack Black Beard Lube are displayed throughout the store.

"I'm going to be carrying a lot of basics for guys and girls. The inventory is always changing, new inventory is always coming in and out. I try to make it very easy to shop. I don't like clutter," says LaScala, who has transformed the former market by laying down bamboo flooring, constructing racks from pipes, building fitting rooms, and painting the walls a pale robin's-egg blue.

A former buyer for several major department stores—and a serious drummer who has played with numerous bands including members of the Foo Fighters—LaScala co-owns the store with Jeff Saltzman, a record producer whose credits include recording and co-producing the Hot Fuss album for the popular band the Killers, and ongoing work with the



Cary LaScala, along with fellow musician Jeff Saltzman, has opened a clothing store that specializes in menswear—a novelty for 24th Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

band Fischerspooner.

On Tuesdays, the two owners shut down the store and record music in a back studio space. Every other day of the week, LaScala opens the store for its intended purpose: selling clothes on the cheap.

"You can get great quality clothes for practically pennies on the dollar," he says.

The store has regular sales, which residents can find out about by signing up online for the e-mail list. During a recent sale, LaScala priced men's Apolis Activism T-shirts that normally retail for \$60 at \$26, further discounted them to \$19, and then offered another 40 percent off, bringing the final tag to \$11.60.

"The concept here is that we're buying samples and past-season items, so we're able to sell [them] really cheap," LaScala explains.

And while the prices may be cheap, don't expect the aesthetic to follow suit.

"I handpick everything in here. It's basically like my taste," he says.

The store is open Monday, and Wednesday through Friday, from noon to 7 p.m.; on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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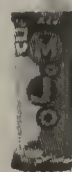
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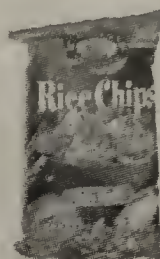


Raincoast
Wild Smoked Salmon
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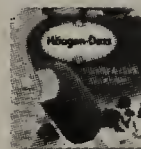
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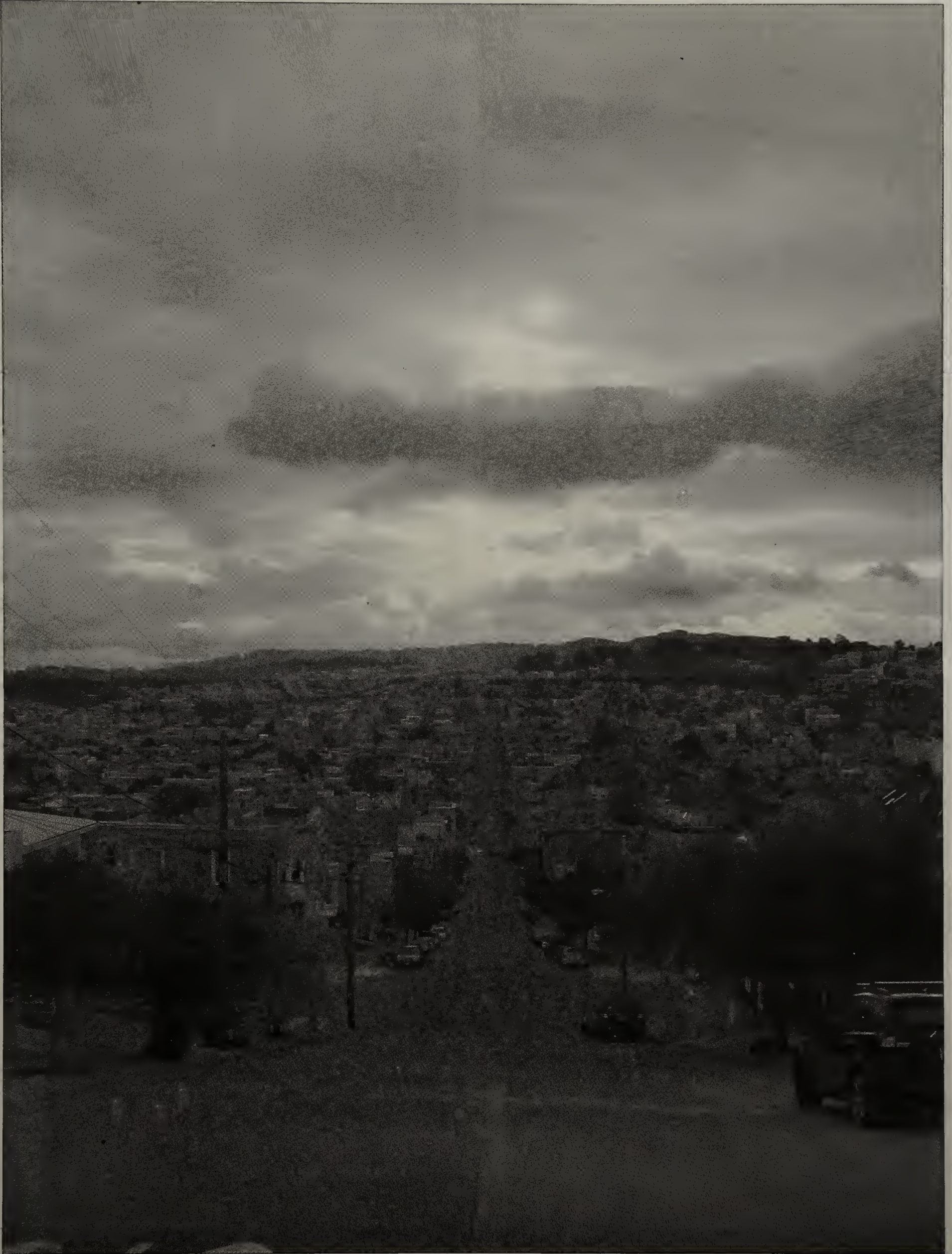


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Noe Valley Skies



Winter on Sanchez Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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A March for MLK: On Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 19), Julia Ready of Growing Up Family Day Care on Noe Street led her small charges to 24th Street, so the children could see that Dr. King and his legacy were important to our community. The kids sang and waved a sign as they stopped in at Starbucks, Streetlight, and Toast Eatery. What did Dr. King say? The children answered, "I have a dream." Many customers smiled and applauded.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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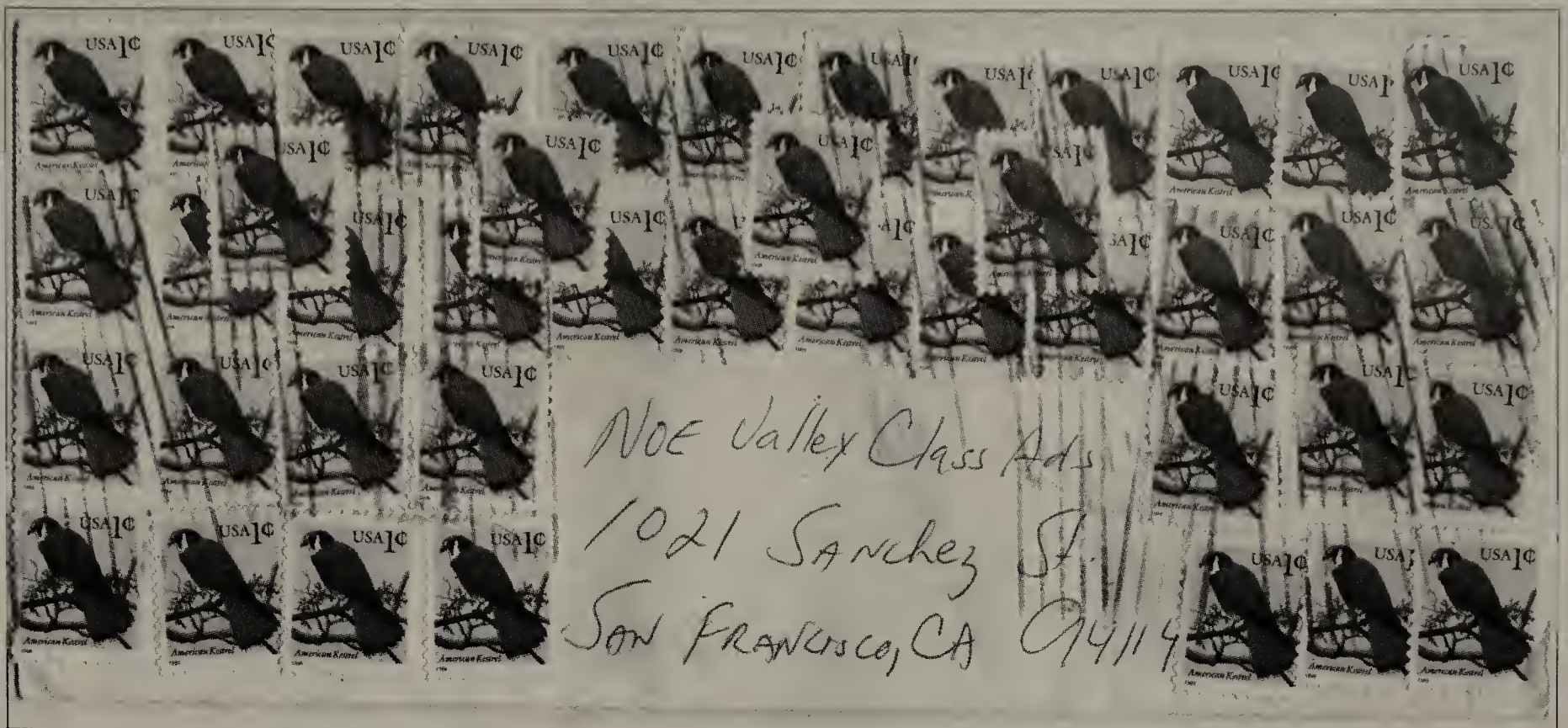


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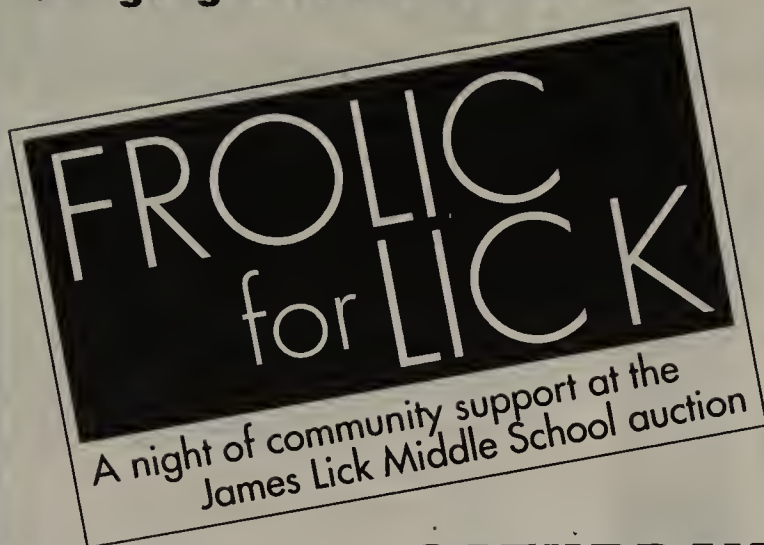
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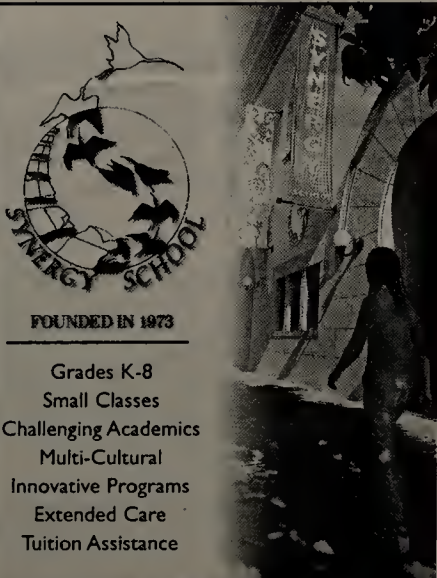
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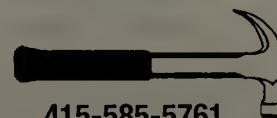
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Swinging Siblings. Ethan Jones prepares to propel his sister Amy on a sunny January day at Douglas Playground.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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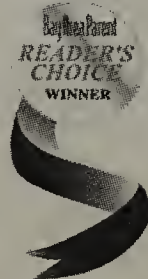
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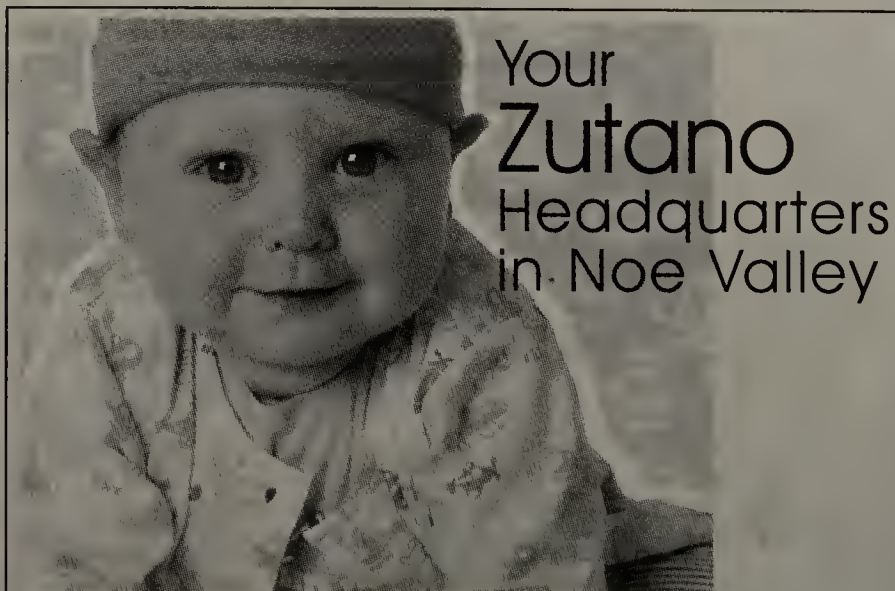
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

New Weekend Librarian Speaks Noe Valley

Here's a selection of new reads at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, conjured up by resident children's librarian Carol Small and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske. To check out books—or CDs or DVDs—drop by the library at 451 Jersey Street. Locals should note that the branch is now open Tuesday through Sunday (*see hours below*) and a new librarian, 19-year Noe Valley resident Susan Higgins, has joined the weekend staff. She'll be glad to help you find something or tell you about the library's new adult programming, such as the "Great American Folksong" evening on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. To contact Higgins, Small, or branch manager Alice McCloud, call 355-5707. For digital library news, see www.sfpl.org.

Adult Fiction

- *Settlement* by Christoph Hein follows the path of a young East German refugee whose family settled in a small West German town after fleeing the Soviet occupation of their homeland in 1945.
- A finalist for the Man Booker Prize, *The Northern Clemency* by Philip Hensher spans 20 years—from 1974 to 1994, roughly the Thatcher era—in the lives of two neighboring families in Sheffield, England.
- After a man is murdered in the elevator of their apartment complex, the residents reveal their prejudices through their contradictory testimony, in Amara Lakhous' prize-winning social satire *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*.

Adult Nonfiction

- *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*, by Paul Tough, profiles the educational reformer who created the Harlem Children's Zone, a "cradle-to-college" program for underprivileged kids.
- In *Annie Leibowitz at Work*, the photographer discusses her career, highlighted by a string of *Rolling Stone* covers and celebrity portraits for the *New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*.
- *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2008*, edited by Dave Eggers, features "fiction, nonfiction, alternative comics, screenplays, and blogs" by Marjorie Celona, J. Malcolm Garcia, Andrew Sean Greer, Raffi Khatchadourian, Stephen King, George Saunders, Patrick Tobin, Laurie Weeks, and others.

Children's Fiction

- Susan Marie Swanson's story *The House in the Night* puts the world in order by naming comforting things—a key, a bed, the light of the moon—to think of at bedtime. Illustrations by Beth Krommes. Ages 3 to 5.
- Collages of photographs and watercolors show the route Babar the Elephant and his family travel across America in *Babar's USA* by Laurent de Brunhoff. Ages 3 to 6.
- A playful gray-and-white kitten hopes there is a friend on the other side of the fence, in Lola Schaefer's *What's That, Mittens?* Ages 5 to 7.
- Rainyday adventures beckon a girl and her horse in *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Rain or Shine*, the fourth book in the *Cowgirl* series by Erica Silverman. Ages 5 to 8.
- Abigail and her younger brother Jake survive trips to the mall, a county fair, the beach, and the emergency room, in Judy Blume's *Going, Going, Gone! with the Pain and the Great One*. Ages 8 to 10.

Children's Nonfiction

- *The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History*, by Jennifer Armstrong is an illustrated treasury of historical tales, starting with the French Huguenot colonization of the Florida coast in 1564-65 and ending with the Bush-Gore election battle of 2000. Ages 8 and up.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Woodie Guthrie and the Great American Folksong

■ Musician and journalist *Tim Holt* will give a talk on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 to 8:30 p.m., tracing the history of folk music in America. Along the way, he'll sing a variety of songs, including classics by Woodie Guthrie and Lead Belly. The program is aimed at adults.

Toddler Tales & Storytime

■ Enjoy books, rhymes, music, and movement at *Toddler Tales*, for ages 18-36 months, on Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10, and 17, from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Then stay for *Family Storytime*, for ages 5 and younger, starting at 11 a.m.

Movies for Children

■ *Films* for kids, ages 3 to 5, will be shown on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 10:15 and 11 a.m.

Events are held at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street. For information, call 355-5707.

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library
451 Jersey St., 355-5707

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5		10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616
(Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond St., 355-2858

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10-6	10-6	10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6

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32	C	A	R	L	O	S	S	A	N	T	A	N	A		
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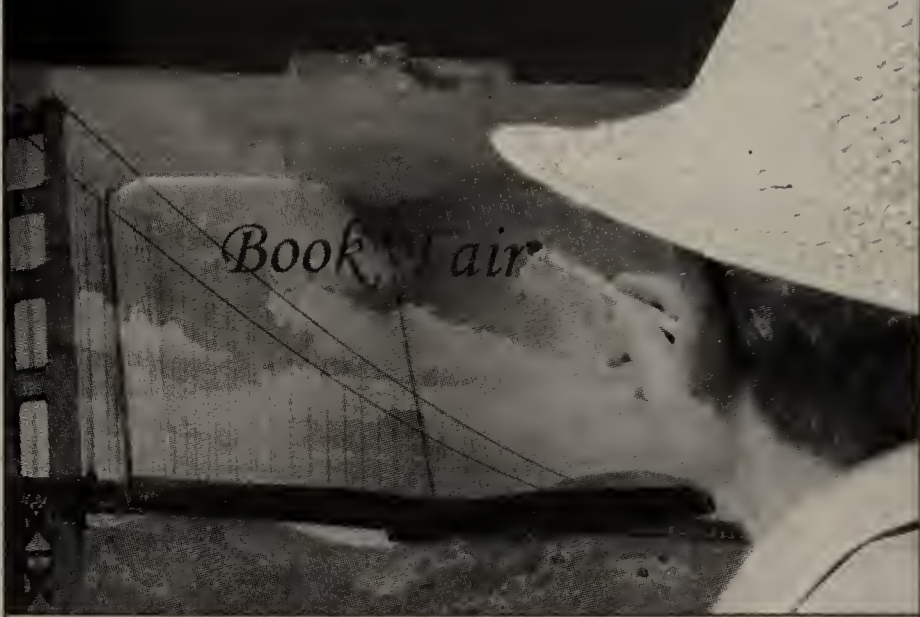
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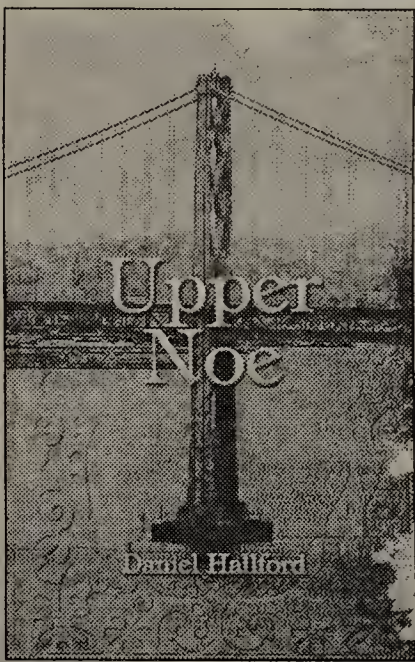
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SCHOOL REPORT

The parents and students at three local public schools—Fairmount, James Lick, and Alvarado—hit the ground running right after New Year's, in their race to raise money for school supplies, art, music, athletic and academic programs this spring.

FAIRMOUNT

Parents Draw Up a Merchants Guide

As the economy stumbles, as homes are foreclosed upon, as familiar storefronts end up taped over with cardboard, even in San Francisco—even in Noe Valley!—Fairmount families have come together, doing what they do best: helping each other out in a time of crisis.

It all started when one of the students' mothers sent out a note on the school list-serv, saying her husband had just lost his construction job, and asking if anybody knew of any references to help him find work.

Other parents wrote notes about their skills, and their need for work in specific areas. Quickly, Fairmount realized our little community had a wealth of talent in many different areas. What would be better than to put together a booklet listing everyone's specialties?

Each person who wanted to advertise in the "Fairmount Family Merchant Guide" donated \$20 to the school, and the list is being posted on the school website, www.fairmountschoolpta.org, for all to have access to.

Nancy Ganner, a Fairmount PTA mom (and real estate agent), launched the merchants guide "to not only help raise funds for our school, but also to support our families outside of school. Everyone's business is down with this economy, and I thought, If you need to hire a carpenter, an attorney, a cleaner, a psychologist, or get a massage, why not seek one right here in our Fairmount circle and we can help each other in these tough times."

Oh, and don't forget that the list has real estate agents. Now is the perfect time to buy in San Francisco, right, Nancy?

Raffle and a Pizza Party

Speaking of how Fairmount families help each other, our raffle in December brought in a hefty \$10,000. The bounty will go toward ballet folklorico, drama, science through gardening, capoeira instruction, choir, librarian support, and \$250 to each teacher for supplies.

In January, parents and kids contributed to another fun fundraiser. Giovanni's Pizza on Mission Street at Richmond Avenue, a pleasant walk from the school, had agreed to donate 20 percent

of all revenues earned on a Thursday night to the school. The event was such a success, there were lines out the door all evening long, and some people didn't get seated for an hour or had to order their pizza to go.

But everyone enjoyed talking to one another, and those who decided to buy a gift certificate to use on another date discovered a treasured new pizza parlor, one that supports our school.

Bunking Down in Bungalows

And the new year has brought a few changes at Fairmount School, changes that may seem difficult, but that will eventually help disabled students enjoy our campus as much as the rest of us do. Construction began in January in the upper C pod, requiring students to move into bungalows on the lower yard while the space is made accessible. In May, the students will move back into their renovated quarters, while the next part of the project begins.

—Jan Goben

JAMES LICK

Silent Auction—a Neighborhood Tradition

Economy? What tough economy? Isn't it always a good time to get a \$5 "bottomless" glass for your beer or wine, and to bid on haircuts, dinners at local restaurants, and of course art? You betcha.

That's why James Lick Middle School students, parents, and staff invite you to attend or participate in our annual silent auction. This year it's called "Frolick for Lick." And donations from 24th Street merchants—including Global Exchange, Valley Chiropractic, Hot Headz, and Tip Top Nails—are already pouring in.

Every dollar gleaned from the auction will go to providing students with essential equipment, such as academic planners, sweatshirts, and school supplies, as well as treats like a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in the spring.

The auction, which will include professionally catered appetizers donated by a community member, will be held on Saturday, March 7, right here in the neighborhood at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, 6 to 10 p.m.

Biking and Bowling

In other news: This spring, James Lick's fitness room will expand to include new cardio bike machines, elliptical riders, and climbing machines, thanks to two generous grants to the physical education department, totaling \$3,000. A workday will be held soon to put the equipment together so kids can start biking and climbing, even on rainy days.

Also, money from the voter-approved Proposition H has arrived, and the PE department will be using its portion to add indoor bowling to the class schedule. Lanes and pins will be set up in the gym, and kids will be bowling strikes in no time. The Prop. H funds will also buy circus skill equipment, tumbling mats, and tennis sets, and new uniforms for every Lick athletic team.

Gearing Up for College

These days, it's never too soon to start planning for college. At James Lick, students get a lot of help in that area. Two school programs—GEAR UP and First Graduate—have been making a difference.

In January, GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) sponsored College 101 Night, a workshop that got students and their parents thinking strategically about getting into the college of their dreams. No straight A's? How about an impressive community service record? U.C. too pricey? Start at City College and transfer to Berkeley later.

Presentations at the event included a crash course on the school district's new high school course requirements, a primer on how to fill out an application for financial aid, and a discussion of organizations and websites to help with scholarships.

"We want to make sure our families have access to all the options available to them to get into college," says Mary Archer, James Lick's coordinator for GEAR UP.

Archer notes that besides workshops, GEAR UP organizes field trips for the students and families, to San Francisco State, U.C. Berkeley, and Stanford. "They are absolutely eye-opening," says Archer. "For the first time, a lot of kids start saying, 'Hey, I want to go here!'"

She's happy to report, "We have a college-going culture at Lick."

At College 101 Night, GEAR UP was assisted by Martin de Muchas Flores from SF Promise (the mayor's new college program for all sixth-graders), Omar Butler from College Track, Shane Maldonado from PACT Inc., Anthony Mickens from First Graduate, and Leonor Jackson, Lick's parent liaison. For more information on GEAR UP, call Archer at the school, 695-5675.

Graduate First

Every spring, dozens of sixth-grade students are chosen for a program called First Graduate (formerly B.A.Y. Fund). The "First" means these kids will be the first in their families to graduate from college. Currently, there are 23 students at Lick who are First Graduate students, and more will be recruited this spring.

The program, which is free, has graduated over 20 students who now are either freshmen or sophomores in a four-year college.

First Graduate gives year-round support to the students, from middle school through college—working with their families, giving academic help, mentoring, school counseling, and then college support—for the skills and confidence necessary to become a college graduate.

To apply for First Graduate, parents can go to www.firstgraduate.org.

—Heidi Anderson

ALVARADO

Flights of Fancy?

Wine connoisseurs can join the usual crew of eager shoppers and art lovers to find treasure at the 16th annual Not-So-Silent Auction to benefit Alvarado Elementary School. Titled "Flights of the World," this year's auction, on Saturday, March 21, promises to give our community's diversity the rosy hue of a mellow red.

The event isn't just about drinking—it's about education! say the organizers. How so? Bidders will war over flights of wine—bottles selected as much for taste as for regional character—from countries that school families have ties to.

If food is more enticing than liquid re-

freshment, party-goers can pool their resources to win group galas, like dinners made by local chefs. Also on the auction block are tickets to ball games and concerts, restaurant gift certificates, summer camps, weekend getaways, and hand-made jewelry and crafts.

Auctioneer and Alvarado parent Bruce Kapsack will put his theatrics to work selling the ever-popular student art at the live auction. As in the past, parents and friends will vie to outbid one another on mirrors, tables, and paintings that the kids have been making since fall.

Meanwhile, the bar will be flowing, food will be buffeting, and a band will be rocking the house—all for a ticket price of \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. The time and location will be the same as last year's blowout: 6 to 11 p.m., at the Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline Boulevard, San Francisco.

Cash-and-Carry Boutique

This year, there are two extra components of the auction. The science room is set to become a Pre-Auction Boutique the week of parent-teacher conferences (March 16-20), giving families an opportunity to buy "cash and carry" items like games, books, gift certificates to local shops and restaurants, and other economically priced items. Nothing in the boutique will cost more than \$50.

"All the parents will be coming through school that week, and we thought turning the science room into a boutique would be a great low-key way for everyone in our community to participate in the auction this year. We know that it's not possible for everyone to come to the auction, but everyone can stop by Room 16 and pick up one or two items that they need," said auction co-planner Angela Danison.

Raffle to Be Grand

Danison and her auction partner Gabriele Lange also added a Grand Raffle to generate excitement around the fundraiser. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 each (or five for \$100, for those who want to up their odds). The grand prize is a fully and finely stocked wine cooler. The second- and third-place prizes are an adult bicycle (or \$300 if the winner chooses) and a Blu-ray video disc player.

Those interested in making donations to the auction are invited to call the school at 695-5695 and leave a message. Auction coordinators will return calls promptly. The public is invited to the auction and to join the Grand Raffle.

For more information, visit the auction portion of the school's website at www.alvaradoschool.net.

—Heather World



SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Robert Broecker, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Ana Lunardi, Principal
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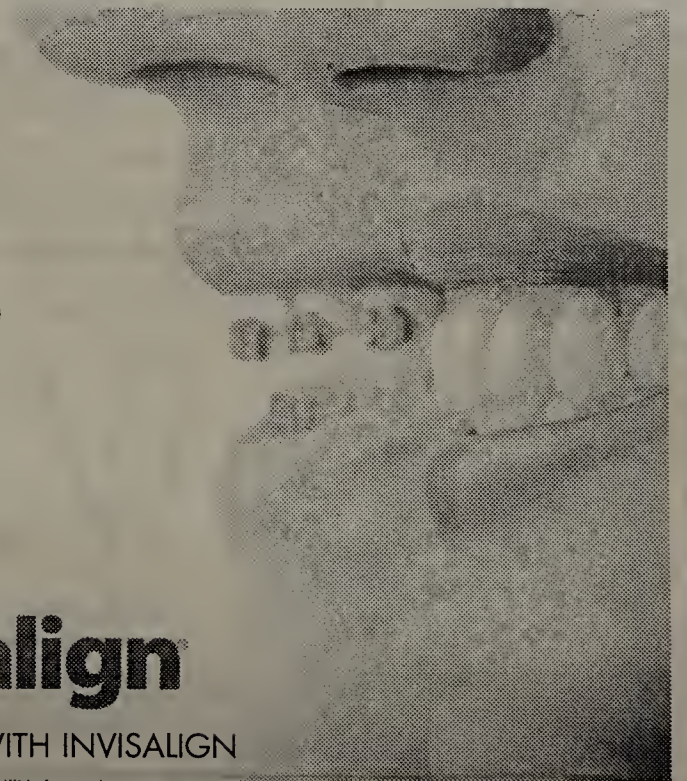
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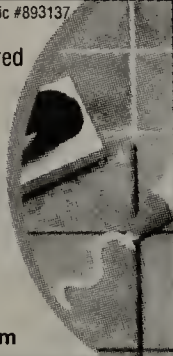
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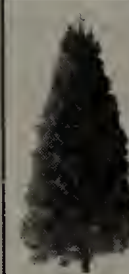
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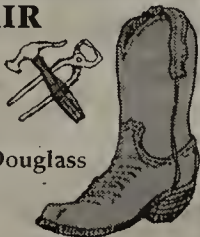
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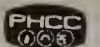
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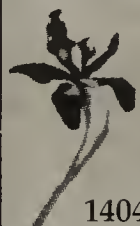
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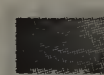
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New Qigong Class in Noe Valley. Qigong (pronounced "chee-gung") works with *qi*, the vital life force, to increase energy and decrease stress, and to help you stay centered in your body. It is a pleasure to do, and can relieve aches and pains. Qigong is related to tai-chi, though this class focuses more on short, simple exercises than on a form. Laura Bresler teaches on Wednesdays, 12:00 to 1:00, at Mobu Dance Studio, 1605 Church at 28th. Contact 415-821-0297.

Catsitting, Dog Walks. Training assistance (cats too!). Positively Pets has been serving Noe Valley and its neighbors full-time since 1991. Humane Society volunteer. References available. 415-647-4757 or e-mail PositivelyPets@earthlink.net.

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Submissions: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of stories, poems, and essays. E-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Include a stamped envelope if you need your materials returned. Thank you.

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It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad text and payment, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the March 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting March 3.

The deadline for Class Ads is Feb. 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. Thank you for your support.

Labrador Retrievers Boarded Overnight in private, cozy beach home with yard, daily beach walks. No crates. \$35/night. Call Issy, 415-637-7717.

The Voice Web Site

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What’s
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The
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Since its grand re-opening in September 2008, the Upper Noe Recreation Center has become fully operational, with a dog run, outdoor softball field, outdoor tennis courts, outdoor play area, indoor gym, and auditorium. Located at 295 Day Street at Sanchez, the park offers activities and classes for the young and old. Monday through Saturday, you can engage in some exercise, learn a sport, or bring your toddler to participate in group activities. The following winter schedule is valid through March 19, 2009. You can also view and download a copy of the full schedule at <http://parks.sfgov.org>. Most activities at the Upper Noe Recreation Center are free unless otherwise noted. Note: Current policy is that indoor and outdoor facilities are available for public use as long as the space isn’t being used for a class. Call 415-970-8061 for more information on the activities and use of the facilities. —Andrea Aranda

Monday

10:00 -11:30 a.m.	Tot Playgroup (1-3 yrs)	Free play, sports, art and music for tots
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Youth Basketball Skills	Basketball skills for 5 th – 8 th graders
7:00 – 9:15 p.m.	Futsal	In-door soccer league games

Tuesday

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Tot Gym (2-5 yrs.) (\$30)	Develop motor skills with the use of different apparatus, free play, and exploration
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Adult Tennis (Intermediate) (\$160.00)	Tennis taught by certified instructor
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Tot Picasso (3-5 yrs) (\$20)	Coloring, painting, arts and crafts for tots
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	ARCZ Homeworkz	Supervised homework help for ages 6–12 yrs
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Tot Time	Free play for kids 5 yrs and under in the auditorium
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Youth Basketball Practice	Practice for Jr. Warriors basketball league
7:30 – 9:15 p.m.	Adult Boot Camp	Conditioning class

Wednesday

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Tot Time (1-3 yrs) (\$30)	Art, music, movement, motor skill development, physical fitness, and school readiness for tots
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Senior Social Club	Table games for adults ages 55 and over
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	ARCZ Homeworkz	Supervised homework help for ages 6–12 yrs
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Tot Time	Free play for kids 5 yrs and under in the auditorium
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Pre-School Baking Class	Baking class for ages 3-5 yrs
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Youth Basketball Practice	Practice for Jr. Warriors basketball league
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Yijin Exercise Class (donation)	Adult stretching, aerobic, and motion class
7:30 – 9:15 p.m.	Adult Boot Camp	Conditioning class

Thursday

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Shake, Twist, and Shout (\$30)	Singing, music, and movement for ages 1-5 yrs
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	ARCZ Homeworkz	Supervised homework help for ages 6–12 yrs
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Tot Time	Free play for kids 5 yrs and under in the auditorium
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Pee Wee Basketball	Basic basketball skills for ages 5-8 yrs
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Youth Baking Class	Baking and cooking for ages 6-12 yrs
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Pee Wee Basketball	Basic basketball skills for K-1 st grade
6:30 – 9:15 p.m.	Jr. Warriors Basketball League	Jr. Warriors League games (3 games)

Friday

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Tot Gym (1–5 yrs) (\$30)	Develop motor skills with the use of different apparatus, free play, and exploration
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	ARCZ Homeworkz	Supervised homework help for ages 6–12 yrs
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Open Tot Time	Free play for kids 5 yrs and under in the auditorium
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Youth Basketball Practice	Practice for Jr. Warriors basketball league
5:30 – 9:15 p.m.	Jr. Warriors Basketball League	Jr. Warriors League games (3 games)
6:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Friday Night Fun	Outings, movies, social activities, and more for ages 14-17 yrs
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Yijin stretching class	Adult stretching, aerobic, and motion class

Saturday

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Youth Basketball Practice	Practice for Jr. Warriors basketball league
11:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Jr. Warriors Basketball League	Jr. Warriors League games (4 games)

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Oh, Happy Day

By Mazook

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Noe Valley turned into a ghost town during the morning hours of Inauguration Day, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009. By 8:30 a.m., all the streets were empty. After collecting data from a random sample of shopkeepers, the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) estimated that almost 100 percent of the 90 percent in Noe Valley who voted for Obama last November watched his inauguration.

Bernie Melvin, of Bernie's Coffee on 24th Street, was up early that day. "We were very, very busy from 5:30 that morning to about a half past eight, and then boom, everybody disappeared and it was like a ghost town out there on 24th Street, and they really didn't come back out until early afternoon."

Patricia Larizadeh, who is Martha's Coffee's longtime barista, said she could hear a pin drop too. "I have never seen anything quite like what happened inauguration morning—this early rush of people, and then, poof, nobody—no cars, no nothing."

That afternoon, Larizadeh, who also lives in Downtown Noe Valley, confirmed that "24th Street returned to normal." But there was a difference. "People around here seemed much happier."

A lot of locals stayed glued to their TVs until they actually saw George Bush get on his helicopter. Standing in the doorway

of the chopper, the former president waved goodbye and mouthed the words, "So long, suckers!" (Or something like that.) As Bush whirled away, people in Noe Valley waved back and cried: "Mission accomplished! At last he's gone!"



THE BUSH ERROR, and the financial crisis it spawned, has had a clear impact on the local business scene. Many merchants in the blocks of 24th between Church and Castro streets recorded lukewarm sales in December and a near freeze in January. Some stores even closed.

Many of the survivors fear what will happen when Bell Market closes down on Valentine's Day and 24th Street lies fallow for six months (while Whole Foods does its renovation).

"I want to change the awning on the front of my store from 'Good News' to 'Bad News,'" jokes newsstand owner Sam Salameh. "Newspaper and magazine sales have fallen quite a bit in the past six months, except for the most popular publications like the *New York Times* and several very popular magazines like the *New Yorker*, the *Economist*, *Wired*, and *Rolling Stone*."

"[Otherwise] my business has been going down by almost 30 percent from last year. I am sure hoping the economic news will be better," he shrugs.

FYI, Salameh says the *N.Y. Times* outsells the *S.F. Chronicle* by 20 percent or more during the week. The *Sunday Times* also is more popular. "The *New Yorker* is our biggest seller," Salameh says.

Next door at the bath shop Common Scents, co-owner Jan Van Sweringen, told the NVBI, "We had a fabulous Christmas, but have absolutely crashed in January. We've seen much less foot traffic on the street, and in reality we're expecting even less when Bell Market closes down in the middle of February."

Ladybug Ladybug co-owner Sheila Istvanick reports a similar sales drop of 30 percent, "but we kept our buying pretty tight. We found many people buying our clothing products, which are 95 percent made here in San Francisco or nearby." And what about card sales? "Ah, that pretty much stays the same and actually has gone up somewhat," she says.

Judy Frangquist at the popular Lisa Vittoletto is trying to stay upbeat. "Sure, we are down from last year, and we kind of expected that, but we are hanging on because of our very loyal customer base." She says she was sad when next-door neighbor Noe Valley Video closed, and she worries about other businesses closing.

"I have seen a dramatic drop in business in the past few months," says Denny Giovannoli, owner of Tuggey's Hardware, Downtown Noe Valley's oldest ongoing business. "Many of my weekday customers who are working in the building trades and coming here for materials are out of work these days, and not too optimistic about the future. I am now giving full service on Saturdays and Sundays to better accommodate the residents in the neighborhood and I'm seeing more folks coming in on the weekends."

Giovannoli says his big worry for so many of his fellow merchants is that business closures create less street traffic and fewer shoppers.



WHOLE LOTTA FOODS: An event not to be missed will be the Feb. 18 town hall meeting sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at St Philip's Church (see *Short Takes*, page 23).

Given the cast of characters—Supervisor Bevan Dufty, SFPD Captain Stephen Tacchini, Debra Niemann of the Noe Valley Association, and Glen Moon from Whole Foods—the NVBI thinks it

would be wise to arrive early. The room could fill up rapidly, and bring out the fire marshal.

As reported in the December *Rumors*, Whole Foods appears to be following through with promises to be responsive to the Noe Valley community. WF will redo everything inside the four walls of the Bell building. The parking lot will stay the same—except, of course, the signs will change. WF will take over the space March 1, and has targeted a reopening six months later.

A design team (Andrew Calabrese, Adam Smith, and Gabriel Rossi) appeared on behalf of Whole Foods at the Upper Noe Neighbors meeting Jan. 29 at the Upper Noe Rec Center. It was attended, according to UNN president Vicki Rosen, by over 40 locals, who had lots of questions. And they got answers.

"What Whole Foods emphasized at the meeting was that this store will be one of their smaller ones and will be designed to sell their core food products. They are going to concentrate on having more food and fewer yoga mats and body products," says Rosen.

"I was very pleased that [Whole Foods] seemed very responsive to the parking problems that are expected after they open, and would even consider a local shuttle bus route in the neighborhood to help us avoid taking our cars to the store," continues Rosen. "I was also happy that many of our members expressed their concerns, urging everyone to continue their support of the Church Street merchants and to patronize them first."

According to Glen Moon, Whole Foods has attempted to buy the long closed Real Food building across the street from Bell, but was informed that the property was not for sale.

As you know, the owner of that 24th

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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OIL CHANGE

RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Street property is the Utah-based Nutraceutical Corporation. Apparently, Nutraceutical is refusing to use it, or to lose it, or to even tell us what it plans to do with it. The company is quite content with the status quo, which is an empty storefront. What a contrast in corporate styles.

Meanwhile, there will be a going-away ceremony to honor the Bell Market employees on Saturday, Feb. 7. The event is being sponsored by the Noe Valley Farmers' Market, and will be held in the mini-park at 24th and Vicksburg, beginning at 11 a.m.

If you like, you can follow your favorite Bell folks to the last remaining Bell/Cala/Ralphs/Kroger in Northern California—the Cala Foods on the corner of California and Hyde streets. It might be worth the excursion, especially for those Club Card members who still want to redeem their bonus points.



FINAL VINYL: Local music lovers will dearly miss our beloved Streetlight Records, which was a destination for people throughout the Bay Area for 32 years. The final disc rolled out the door on Jan. 31. Adios, amigos.

Sunlight Weismehl, who had been working there for the past 20, says he is making a move within the company to "doing online sales, which are getting bigger and bigger every year."

Both Art Casares and Mike Dineen, who've spent the last dozen years at the 24th Street store, say they will be going over the hill to work in Streetlight's Eu-

reka Valley location on Market near Castro. Casares says, "I really am sorry to leave the Valley, but that's what we've got to do."

The storefront has not been rented yet. Perhaps the \$12,000 in monthly rent is somewhat daunting to prospective tenants. What the Streetlight space will become is anybody's guess.

Closing rather abruptly in December was the upscale women's boutique Riki, which had been at its 24th Street location since 2001. The sign on the front door explained: "We've consolidated—visit us at our Berkeley and Davis stores."

The *Voice* caught up with Riki owner and designer Ursula Labermeier at her Davis shop. She said she was sorry she had to close but it was time "to focus on our other stores." She is working with a real estate agent and the landlord to find a tenant to take over the lease. The rent for Riki's space, by the way, is \$5,200 per month.

Deep Sushi, the popular eatery on Church near Day, did not reopen after the business went on vacation for the holidays. The space has been dark for a month, and no human or machine is answering the phone. The rumor around Upper Noe is that the chef went to work in a Daly City sushi bar and that Deep Sushi has been or will be sold. Stay tuned for more news later.

All those rumors are true: Contigo, the new Spanish-flavored restaurant on Castro between 24th and Jersey, has finally won its three-year battle to open. The doors will swing open, according to the restaurant's blog, at precisely 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Good luck.



KUDOS AND SIGNS: Noe Valley filmmaker and Academy Award winner Debra Chasnoff screened her new docu-

mentary *Straight Lace—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on Saturday, Jan. 14. The movie features many high school students talking candidly about pressures caused by rigid gender roles and homophobia.

Kudos go out to Noe Valley native Sol Sender, who, reports his dad Ramon Sender, worked on the team that designed the red and blue circle Obama logo.

Thanks to Erik Martinez, the new owner of Urban Cellars (on 24th Street near Church), for restoring the two-sided marquee above the store and the witty sayings posted there that have kept us all looking up and laughing. The wind blew the marquee down last year.

Before that for many years, former Cellars owner Walid Masoud would keep us all amused by his signs. My favorite was (side 1) *May all your pain be sham pain*; (side 2) *May all your champagne be real*. The runner-up was (side 1) *24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case*; (side 2) *Coincidence??* By the way, Erik has a suggestion box—so you can submit your favorite lines for the marquee.



HARRY'S HORSES are still winning. When iconic local realtor Harry J. Aleo passed away on the 2008 summer solstice (June 21) at age 88, he was survived by his longtime significant other Beldean Bartlett, his three daughters Valerie, Carole, and Terry, a grandchild Wyatt, and 10 racehorses. Two of the horses, Wild Promises and High Resolve—both sprinters—won big races last month in the prestigious Sunshine Millions at Gulfstream Park in Florida. The purse for the former was \$500,000, and the latter \$300,000.

Aleo gained international celebrity with his most famous sprinter, Lost in the Fog. A documentary about Harry and the

Fog, produced by Noe Valleyan John Corey, is being screened around the world and has even been broadcast from time to time on a TV screen in the front window of Aleo's Twin Peaks Properties. (See this issue's front page.)

According to probate court records, Aleo's estate was valued at nearly \$24 million, and he was earning over \$400,000 a year from his property investments. Four of his Noe Valley properties were recently sold for over \$5 million to pay taxes and the expenses of the estate. Most of his property, including several parcels in Downtown Noe Valley, is held in a trust and currently not for sale.

There are rumors that the public parking lot across the street from his office may be named in honor of him. Back in 1959, Harry Aleo was president of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, a group of 19 members. Noe Valley had no public parking lots at that time, so the association bought the space and then gave it to the city, to be turned into a lot that would encourage shoppers to drive to Noe Valley.

That's 30, folks.



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A Little Downbeat: The *Voice* snapped this shot of Streetlight Records employees Art Casares, Sunlight Weismehl, Jeff Moss, Ron Shelley, and Mike Dineen during a week when almost every conversation they engaged in at the counter ended with a customer's wistful goodbye. The store, after 32 years on 24th Street, closed Jan. 31.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: cupa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Gary Norman, 282-5685,
or Susan Levinson, 647-3007
E-mail: gary.norman@edwardjones.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for information.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

E-mail: dhic123@gmail.com
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Scott Wiener, President, 437-9414
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of
January, March, May, July, September, and
November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501
Castro Street (upstairs)
Website: www.evpa.org

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is
held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pachell.net
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: E-mail or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a
screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m.,
departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.
For details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30
p.m. Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Gwen
Sanderson, 550-7577
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Tuesday of the month, Bank
of America, 4098 24th St. Check website
www.noevalleymerchants.com for time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
E-mail: mfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San José/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sajoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs

Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338;
Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
E-mail: events@seejanerun.com
Address: 3910 24th Street (at Sanchez)
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Website: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month,
Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and
Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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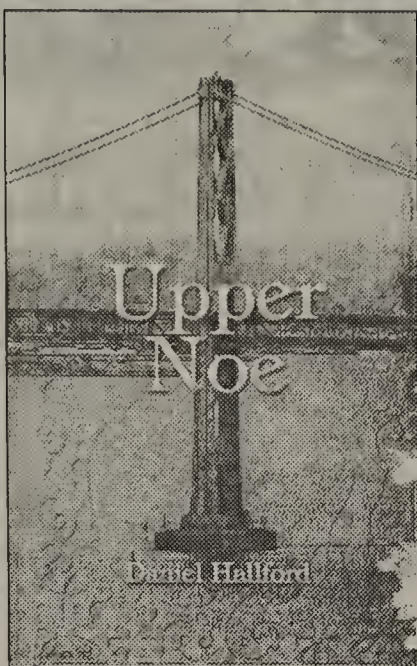
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A Memoir

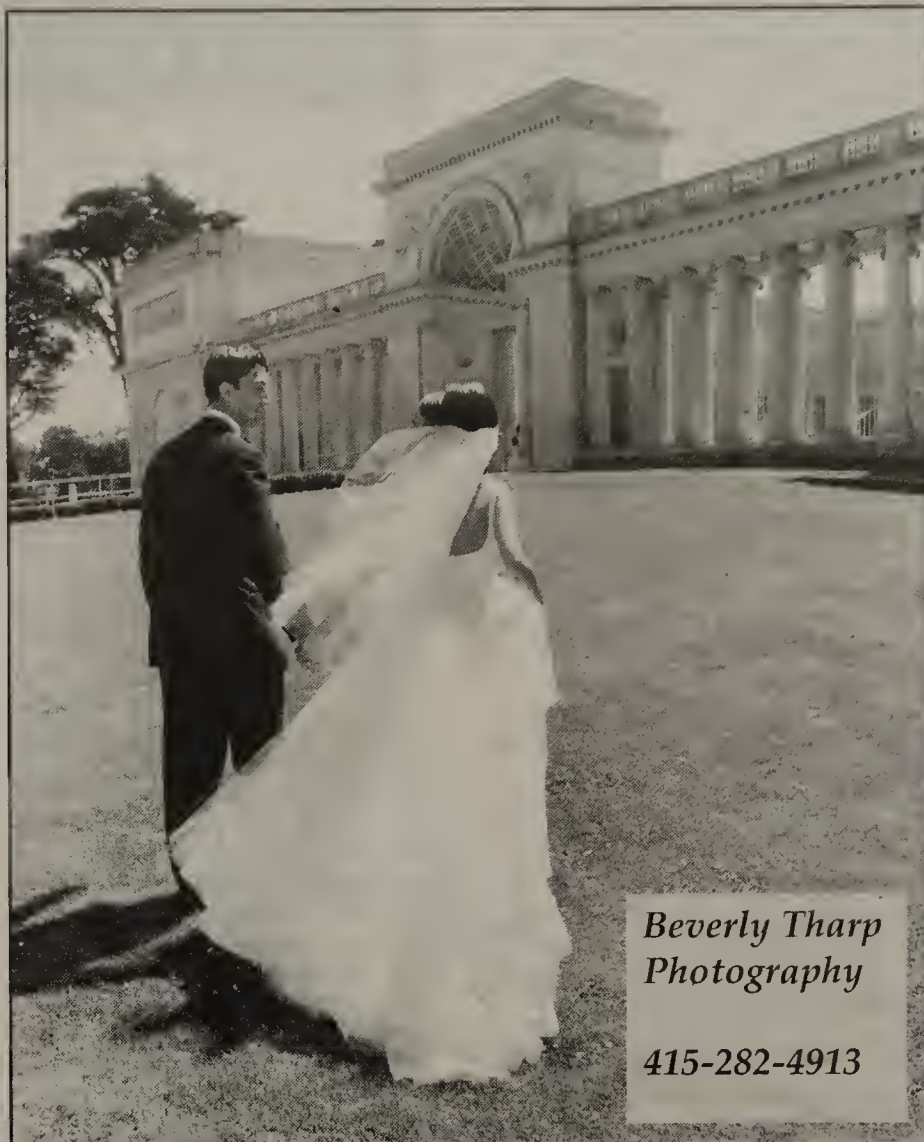
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Cloudburst

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bursting blue cobalt twilight
an agent of change
cloud flower epiphany
a glimpse of godhead above

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Bus stop, nonchalant
blackbird spiny feet planted
on asphalt solo
in his universe boarding...
...next stop, the red cyclamen

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planet in your SUV
SUV SU
V Burnin' up the planet
BURNIN' UP BURNIN' UP BURN

Dreaming

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rose dreams conjugation of
quartz beads each a
milestone, a world birthing a
matrix compression and fire

A Wild Man

A Yugoslav once
told me he loved me in front
of my children They, I laughed
—the joy was pure silver light
lightning gold gossamer threads

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civic heart field of water
pagoda / gate / bridge
oasis of liquid calm
harboring Vietnam soul



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Epilogue (the Unhire)

Ca\$h cashiering / not
cheese tasting Ennui reigns
feet despair machine
ca\$h antithesis romance
ancient food memories Art

Café XO

Young Greek god's raison
d'être cakes art decor roses
fat Buddha Grecian
profiles prolific beauty
while you sip read lounge converse

Peach Tea

Wissotzky is
a real brand of tea, art graphics
Persian poets peach
tree dreams of doves' sophistry
high coo of symbiosis

Mole Tasting Contest
(on Day of the Dead)

Mole is not an
animal he explained It's
sauce ancient profound
mystery history bound
together in sublime taste

Fun Eating

Pick here / there your fave
delicious DeLessio's
yummies row on row
imagination's riot.
plethora Thiebaud's fancy

Properties of Silk

Silk threads shimmer of
friendship strongest of fabrics
retaining warmth so
light scissor tongue unravels
tapestry moments frayed skeins

The Word Love

Calligrapher's heart
Mao's dictum / new China love's
epicenter now
a sum of oracle bones
a nascent modernity

A Bard Is Born

Fingers flying on
sleek keyboard, ideas crash
burn like Icarus
no matter fingers race a
lifetime marathon short sprint

GENEVIEVE YUEN

Poet Genevieve Yuen finds that inspiration for her work is sometimes "sparked by difficult emotional episodes, which allow me to express my turmoil and deliver the drive necessary to put pen to paper. Other times it could be simply observing some exquisite or unusual scene in nature."

Her poems have appeared in *Free Spaghetti Dinner*, the *Tenderloin Times*, and the *San Francisco Examiner* haiku contests. A writing class introduced her to the tanka, which is a 1,300-year-old Japanese verse form, much like the haiku, except with two additional lines of seven syllables each (so the makeup is 5-7-5-7-7). "Being longer than haiku, tanka are more fun and challenging to write," Yuen explains. "I like both forms because they're a relaxing and relatively easy way for me to compose and complete a poem."

Yuen grew up in Chinatown, but has lived all over San Francisco, including at 29th and Noe streets when she was a teenager in the 1950s. She returned to Noe Valley for a few years in the 1970s as a single mother raising three kids. "It was a hippy village," she says. For the past 10 years, Yuen has called Randall Street home. She's currently working on a collection of poems titled *sELf*.